Upside Down—Week #7 July 25, 2021

"Blessed are the pure in heart..."



To the leader:

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the page.

On Sunday, Pastor Nick talked about the beatitude about being pure in heart. We would like to admit that we are clean, or pure but do we really know what that means in this context? While we tend to look at the outside, God isn't fooled by what things appear to be like because He sees who we really are. We might look at the face but God looks at the heart. We all know this on a deeper level inside so we try to be pure and have pure motives and emotions. Typically, we try to look pure by performing to look good and doing as you please. Instead, Jesus reminds us that being pure in heart means to be committed to the process of becoming more like Jesus and to place integrity over image.

"Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."

- What are some characteristics of an undivided heart?
- ♦ What causes a heart to be divided? What are the consequences for this?

Let's review the points from the message Sunday:

We think being pure in heart means to:

- 1. Perform to look good
- Describe a time where someone, maybe yourself, did something solely for the attention it would bring.
- ♦ In what way does Jesus describe such hypocrisy in Matthew 23:27-28?

- 2. Do what I please
- What do the first few verses of Romans 6 say about the "do as I please" mindset?
- In what way does this supposed freedom end up being more like prison?

Instead, Jesus calls us to:

- 1. Commit to the process of becoming more like Jesus
- ♦ How is "a good heart" not all that matters? Is this statement even accurate?
- ♦ In what way is the sanctification process worth it?
- 2. Place integrity over image
- What relationship does integrity have with a pure heart?
- ♦ What are some characteristics that have been shaven off your life? How has it made you more pure in heart?

Now what?

- Pray that God would reveal areas in your life that need to be melted away.
- ♦ Pray that people would see God through your pure actions.

Three Essential Questions

- 1. What did you hear? What point in this message was most impactful for you?
- 2. What do you think? How did this message challenge, change or affirm your thinking?
- 3. **What will you do?** How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?