

MATTHEW 5:8 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART - [\(SERMON MP3\)](#)

A story is told about a little boy who was asked by his teacher, “Where is your heart?” He responded, “My heart is where I sit down.” The teacher was surprised and asked, “How did you get that idea?” The little boy responded with, “Every time I do something good, my grandma pats me there and says, ‘Bless your little heart.’” Now in reality, the heart is the center of the entire personality, and in the 6th Beatitude, Jesus blesses the “pure in heart.” If we want fellowship with God – “to see God” – than purity of heart is the indispensable prerequisite.

- ☀ *What thoughts connected to the 6th Beatitude are affirmed in the following passages (Psalm 24:3; 73:1; Heb. 12:14)?*

- ☀ *According to the scriptures, what is the nature of the natural heart of man (Matt. 15:19; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 1:21; 2:5; Gen. 6:5)?*

- ☀ *When you think about the state of your heart, how would you describe it? Is it pure? Is it holy? Consider the following “heart” questions: What do you think about when your mind slips into neutral? How much sympathy does your heart have toward shady humor, immorality, or impurity? What do you want more than anything else?*

- ☀ *Someone once said, “To be pure in heart is to live one life and live it in the open.” This requires a whole life, public and private, that is transparent before God and men. Are your words and actions accurate reflections of what is in your heart, or do you cover-up with hypocrisy?*

To have a pure heart means that your inner being is not diluted, defiled, or divided. You are wholly focused on, trusting in, and given over to God.

- ☀ *How do people struggle with a diluted heart?*

- ☀ *How do people struggle with a defiled heart?*

- ☀ *How do people struggle with a divided heart?*

When it comes to measuring the degree of heart purity, we tend to measure ourselves alongside our fellow man. Find someone more immoral, more dishonest, and more materialistic. Find someone with lower ethics, lower values, and lower standards. And then stand beside them and feel (if even for a brief moment) pure. Such comparison hides the truth.

- ☀ *What standard did the Pharisee in Luke 18:11 use to make himself feel “pure” before God?*

- ☀ *How do the following passages clarify the true standard of purity that God expects (1Pet. 1:16; Matt. 5:48)?*

- ☀ *If we are struggling accepting the fact that we have impure hearts, whose life should we compare ourselves to _____?*

The Pharisee’s were consumed with external purity. They wanted to appear beautiful on the outside, but the inner man was full of uncleanness. What analogies does Jesus use when rebuking them about this (Matt. 23:25-28)?

- ☀ *Jesus emphasized heart-righteousness rather than mere rule-righteousness. He focused on the inward and moral, rather than the outward and ceremonial.*

- ☀ *According to (1Sam. 16:7), man looks on the _____ but God looks on the _____.*

