

Pure in Heart vs. Divided Heart

Matthew 5:8

June 1, 2014

Series title: 2 Roads; 8 Sign Posts

Review:

Blessed are the poor in spirit--those who don't make SELF (happiness) the center of their life.

Blessed are those who mourn--who take seriously the awful dilemma of SELF committed to staying central in our lives.

Blessed are the meek--those who turn away from "ME-ness" and move toward God and others.

Blessed are those who hunger ...for righteousness--who are driven to God for the inner change needed to be more caught up with God and others than SELF.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy--this calls for a dramatic change in the way we think of people, and relate to them. We were critical of people when they didn't come through for us. Now we see the awful SELF that drives being critical. We want to extend mercy to them!

DAY 1: the human heart

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

1. When you think about the human heart, what things come to mind? If you could do an MRI of the human heart what would you find?

2. The O.T. Pharisees thought themselves the paragons of virtue because they did the right stuff outwardly. Listen to what Jesus had to say to the guys everyone considered the most virtuous.

*Matthew 23:25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, **but inside** they are full of greed and self-indulgence. [26] Blind Pharisee! **First clean the inside** of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.*

*[27] "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside **but on the inside** are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. [28] In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."*

3. Just because the outside of a glass is clean you would NEVER drink from it IF the inside was full of algae. Why?

Matthew 15:18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' [19] For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

4. What is the relationship between what goes on inside us and what pops out, outside us?

DAY 2: Pure in heart

What is "Pure?"

1. What do you think a "pure" heart would look like? How could you tell if you had one?
2. What does an **impure** heart look like? In the verses that follow jot down what is in our heart.

*James 1:7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;
8 he is **a double-minded man**, unstable in all he does.*

*Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is **deceitful** above all things and **beyond cure**. **Who can understand it?***

3. A "pure" heart has two meanings in the bible. The first is "**Single**."

*Psalms 86:11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an **undivided heart**, that I may fear your name.*

- a. What is a *divided* heart?

- b. The bible uses the following phrases as synonyms of a pure heart. Next to each, jot down what the words mean to you:

* Single-minded: _____

* Whole-hearted: _____

* Devoted: _____

4. The second meaning of "pure" heart "**Clean**."

In the verses below, jot down why a clean heart is so important.

Psalms 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

5. How would you describe the state of your heart?

DAY 3: What does it mean to "see God?"

Matt. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

1. Only on extremely rare occasions has anyone in the history of man physically seen God. Given that, what do you think Jesus means that the pure in heart will "see God?"

2. Some people wonder why God doesn't reveal Himself so that we can see Him. What insight does the following verse offer us?

1 Timothy 6:16 ... who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

3. Can we see something of God's nature and character as we observe what He has made?

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

4. Moses "saw" God in the way Jesus is talking about in Matt. 5:8.

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. [25] He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

[26] He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. [27] By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

5. From these four verses, what led Moses to conclude that he had "seen" God "who is invisible?"

Sensing His closeness

Enjoying His presence

Receiving direction in life

Seeing the wisdom of going God's ways

Seeing the value of following God

Other: _____

6. If you have seen God changing your heart, you doubtless have tasted of what it means to "see" God. You have witnessed and are witnessing "seeing" God change your heart! Jot down how you have "seen" God at work as He changes your heart.

DAY 4: How do you move toward a pure heart?

1. By now you have concluded that no human being will ever have a pure heart without God's intervention and power.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

2. Though we pray as if *only God* can give us a pure heart, He expects us to seek a pure heart "as if" it all depended on us. Beneath the verses below, jot down what we can do to move toward a pure heart.

2 Tim. 2:2 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will become wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Colossians 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

3. Here are some of the items of importance. Check the ones you need to focus on.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk with wise people | <input type="checkbox"/> Take action to purify self |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flee the unclean | <input type="checkbox"/> Guard your thoughts | <input type="checkbox"/> Value reverence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pursue what's clean | <input type="checkbox"/> Set your mind/thoughts on heaven's values | |

DAY 5: A few final notes on purity

1. As we wrap up the week, there are a few "loose ends" that are important to remember.

2. Trying to clean up our own heart is a fruitless effort without God's help.

Isaiah 64:6 (Living) We are all infected and impure with sin. When we put on OUR "prized" robes of righteousness, we find they are but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves we fade, wither and fall. And our sins, like the wind, sweep us away.

3. Have you ever tried to wash windows with a rag that had a little bit of oil or grease on it? What effect did the rag have on the window? On you?

4. God gives you an invitation you cannot refuse.

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

5. What does God promise to do for us?

6. What is our part?

7. One day, in heaven, the battle with impurity will *finally be over!!!*

1 John 3:2-3 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. [3] Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

8. John gives us several pictures of a future hope! What are they?

9. In light of the hope that is coming, what effect should that have today?

10. Finally, a few verses about purity and heaven...

*Rev. 21:27 Nothing **impure** will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

11. What strikes you from today's study?