



THE BEATITUDES Series • Sermon Recap

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

— Matthew 5:8

Bible Texts: Matthew 5:1–12 ⁱ(key verse: Matthew 5:8); 1 Samuel 16:7ⁱⁱ; Proverbs 4:23ⁱⁱⁱ; Jeremiah 17:9^{iv}; Psalm 51:10^v; Isaiah 53:6^{vi}; Ezekiel 36:26^{vii}; James 4:8^{viii}; Philippians 3:12–14^{ix}; 1 John 3:2^x.

Jesus’ sixth Beatitude gives both a searching call and a beautiful promise. Pastor Mike opened with Bob Edens, who was blind for fifty-one years before surgery gave him sight. Suddenly he could see colors, sunsets, stars, and things that had always been there. The world had not changed; Bob had changed. In the same way, when God changes a heart, He gives new spiritual sight. We begin to desire His presence and treasure what we once overlooked. “They shall see God” points to the day we will see Christ face-to-face, but it also speaks of knowing and recognizing Him now.

1. God Looks at the Heart

In Scripture, the heart is more than emotion. It is the deepest center of the person—the inner “control center” from which thoughts, desires, motives, choices, words, and actions flow. That is why 1 Samuel 16:7 says that people look at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. Proverbs 4:23 tells us to guard the heart because the springs of life flow from it. Christianity is not mainly about making the outside look respectable. God goes to the source. What rules the heart eventually shapes the life.

Reflection: What do my recent words, choices, and priorities reveal about what is ruling my heart?

2. The Human Heart Needs More Than Improvement

The Bible does not describe the natural heart as basically healthy and needing a little polishing. Jeremiah says it is deceitful and desperately sick, and Jesus taught that evil comes “from within.” Pastor Mike compared the heart to the source of a contaminated stream. We can keep cleaning water downstream, but unless the source changes, the contamination returns. Better habits and stronger willpower cannot cure the deepest problem of sin. We need God to do within us what we cannot do for ourselves. David understood this when he prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God.”



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Reflection: Where am I trying to manage outward behavior when God is calling me to surrender the deeper issue of my heart?

3. A Pure Heart Is a Clean Heart

The gospel answers the heart's deepest need. At the cross, Christ bore our sin. When we come to Him in repentance and faith, God forgives us and makes us right with Himself. This is justification by faith: God declares the believer righteous because of what Christ has done, not because we have achieved perfection. God also gives us a new heart, as promised in Ezekiel 36:26. New desires begin to grow. We increasingly want God, grieve sin, and desire to live for Christ. This ongoing work of becoming more like Christ is called sanctification. Grace changes both our standing before God and the direction of our lives.

Reflection: What new desire or changed attitude can I recognize as evidence of God's transforming grace in my life?

4. A Pure Heart Is an Undivided Heart

Purity also carries the idea of being single, unmixed, or undivided. Jesus is not teaching sinless perfection; He is describing a heart whose ultimate loyalty is God. James warned believers against being double-minded. Paul gives the positive picture in Philippians 3: "one thing I do." He had not arrived, but he knew his direction: he wanted to know Christ and press toward Him. A pure heart can love family, enjoy good gifts, and carry ordinary hopes, but all of them take second place to knowing and following Jesus. A pure heart is not one that wants nothing but God; it wants God more than anything else. As that focus deepens, we learn to notice His presence, His grace, and His work around us.

Reflection: What competing loyalty most threatens to divide my heart, and what would it look like to put Christ clearly first?

Closing Thought

Grace does more than improve behavior. It opens our eyes, changes our desires, and turns our hearts toward Christ. We see Him now through His Word and by His Spirit, and one day the promise will be complete: we will see Him face-to-face. Until then, our



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prayer can be simple: “Lord, give me a clean heart and an undivided heart. Help me pursue Jesus with a single-eyed focus.”

i Matthew 5:1-12 - English Standard Version

The Sermon on the Mount

⁵ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

iii 1 Samuel 16:7 - English Standard Version

⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

iii Proverbs 4:23 - English Standard Version

²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

iv Jeremiah 17:9 - English Standard Version

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?

v Psalm 51:10 - English Standard Version

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right^[a] spirit within me.



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^{vi} **Isaiah 53:6 - English Standard Version**

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

^{vii} **Ezekiel 36:26 - English Standard Version**

²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

^{viii} **James 4:8 - English Standard Version**

⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

^{ix} **Philippians 3:12-14 - English Standard Version**

Straining Toward the Goal

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

^x **1 John 3:2 - English Standard Version**

²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears^[a] we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.