

## Blessed - Sermon 7 - The Pure

### Matthew 5:8

**ILLUSTRATION:** An American Indian had a girlfriend back on a reservation in New Mexico, he wasn't able to go see her that often. He found postage too expensive and calling out of the question, so he decided to resurrect his peoples tradition of smoke signals to communicate. It caught on in that part of the state and by and by everyone was doing it in the Indian community. And it became a favorite past time to see out and watch what everyone was saying to one another...about that time Uncle Sam exploded the first atomic bomb. This enormous mushroom cloud went up. Indian said, "Wow, wish I'd said that!".

- **October 13** - Friend Day. Sunday school Teachers, personally contact everyone on your roll. Special Guest American Idol star John Glossan - Invite!!! Trophy to the small group with the highest attendance.
- **Deacon Nominations** - Nominate as many as you want.

**TEXT: Matthew 5:8 (ESV)**

[8. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.](#)

We've established the meaning of "Blessed" - it's walking in the power, presence, and provision of God.

What is pure in heart? Well, remember early in our series we talked about how a human exists as a trichotomy? Body, Soul, and Spirit? Well when the Bible refers to your heart it is speaking of the SOUL - the mind, the will and the emotions.

**So let's expand the text a bit...**

Who will experience the Presence, Power, and Provision of God? The one who is PURE in mind, will, and emotions. This person shall see God.

So now the key to understanding this text is to unpack and understand PURITY.

## 1. The Portrait of Purity -

As Jesus made this statement the hearers would have had certain word pictures that would immediately come to mind.

### a. An Undivided Heart

In other words a heart of **integrity**. You remember in math that an integer is a whole number. It's not a fraction, it's not a portion of a number... it's a whole number.

We get the word integration from the same word here... Integration is the opposite of segregation... segregation means you divide things up and separate them... integration is you bring them all together.

In the same way a pure heart is a whole heart... it's a heart without closets.

This is the man who doesn't segregate his Sunday AMS from his Saturday PMS.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Some approach life like a pie divided into slices. Work, Marriage, Parenting, Habit, Compulsions, Sex life, then there's church life.

The man of integrity doesn't operate that way - his work is just as sacred as baptism or communion.

When a man integrates his life, he is the same no matter where he is or who he is around...

Now I've found that means you have to shave some of the **pretense** off your Sundays... and it means you have to shave off some of the **roughness** off your Saturdays. One of the secrets of life is finding that core person that you can maintain perpetually.

**ILLUSTRATION:** In the first century Greek culture, in a play one person could have many roles, wore a mask for each role. He was called the Hupo-Cretos. That is where we get our word hypocrite.

Are you a hypocrite? Do you have a work mask, a church mask, a club mask? That gets really old, and it gets really difficult over time.

Integrity is what you are when no one else is looking. That's the real you. We are more interested in image and reputation... God is interested in integrity

### **Proverbs 20:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!

## **b. The Dross Removed**

This was the silversmith's method of purifying silver.

**ILLUSTRATE; When silver would come out of the ground, sometimes it would look like silver, sometimes it looked more like rock...**

\*Basically, they would put the silver that had been mined out of the Earth into a melting pot, then hold it over the furnace until it was thoroughly melted. Then they

would leave it several more minutes until all of the impurities would rise to the top. Then they would scrape the dross off with a rod leaving nothing but pure silver.

**Proverbs 25:4**

Take away the **dross** from the silver, And there comes out a vessel for the smith;

**Proverbs 26:23**

Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross Are burning lips and a wicked heart.

**Isaiah 1:22**

Your silver has become **dross**, Your drink diluted with water.

Do you know that the trials of life are compared to the heat of the the furnace? They are meant to purify you.

## b. The Vine Pruned

John 15:2

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He (Literally Cleans) prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

Consider the fact that God has made a tremendous investment in you. The life of his only begotten Son. Therefore, he wants to get a maximum return on his investment.

He will cut away anything that hinders the fruit from forming in your life.

**ILLUSTRATION;**

A sculptor was working on a sculpture of a man when a layman walked by and asked, "Dear Sir, how do you take a huge rock and bring out of it a perfect sculpture of a man???" The Master sculpture said, It's easy, I just knock off anything that doesn't look human."

How does God sculpt Christians? He knocks off anything in your life that doesn't look like Jesus.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Organic food is becoming increasingly popular. No one wants to eat stuff that's been sprayed with pesticides or pumped full of steroids and preservatives. Why? Because the extra stuff contaminates our bodies and makes us sick. When we eat food that man has messed with, we keep our bodies from functioning as God intended.

The same principle applies to our hearts. When we feed our hearts whatever the world dishes out, we are at risk of spiritual disease. But when we focus our hearts on God's Word and worship God with our thoughts and actions, He will keep our hearts pure and healthy.

\*You see God's standard for your life is not how you stack up next to another person in the Church, but how to you stack up again his absolute perfection?

## 2. The Point of Purity

*He says, "Blessed are the Pure in heart for they shall see God"*

*What does it mean to see God? It means to be admitted into HIS presence.*

**EXAMPLE;** If I called Dr. Devane's office and said, "Can I see Dr. Devane today?" I do not mean, can I see him from a distance, or can I see a picture of him, but I mean can I come into his examining room and into his presence.

*That's what is meant by **Hebrews 11:27***

*<sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.*

It doesn't mean beholding him with your human eyes. It's seeing God with  
In the book of the Revelation God says, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches". **Just as you would hear the voice of God with Spiritual ears, you must see the face of God with spiritual eyes...**

Last night I was reading **Psalm 23:1-4** (ESV) I noticed the shifting of the personal pronoun... from He to YOU...

*<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

You see David was no longer talking ABOUT the LORD he now was talking TO the Lord. That's what seeing Him is all about.

## 3) The Path to Purity

**Well what do I do? Live in a cave? Become Amish? Is it the Holy Spirit that I need?**

**John Maxwell tells of a man that said,**

*"I struggled with lust so I went and lived in a cave and I don't struggle with lust*

*anymore. Maxwell said, "That man may not struggle with lust he obviously struggles with lying."*

## **The most comprehensive and practical verse on purity in the NT in**

### **2 Timothy 2:22 (ESV)**

22 So flee youthful passions (lusts) and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

## **a. What to run from**

Now flee from youthful lusts

NOTICE HOW CLEAN HANDS AND PURE HEART ARE JOINED TOGETHER. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE DIRTY HANDS AND A PURE HEART.

I remember when I was in Junior High and the coaches would try to tell us how to overcome lust in our hearts. What do you do when you are with your girlfriend and you are thinking of things you ought not think of?? Here are some of the advise we received;

- **Think about your grandma**
- **Count sheep**
- **Drink hot lemonade**

**Let me tell you, as one who was once a Junior High student...THOSE DO NOT WORK!!!**

**The Bible gives one word of advice when you are tempted to sin sexually,  
RUN!!!**

### **ILLUSTRATION;**

When I was a boy I would go down the hill to my cousin's house almost every day of the week. TATUM, ZEKE and BOONE.

I learned what fleeing means when Tatum and Zeke got a new PIT BULLDOG named Cisco. I'll never forget riding my bike down that steep hill to their house when all of a sudden here comes this huge white dog. I jumped off the bike and used it as a shield between me and this growling dog. Finally, Tatum and Zeke's daddy (Dewey) came out and said, "Cisco" when that dog turned it's head I ran faster than I ever remember before or since.

Paul says, you want to overcome sexual sin? Treat it like Cisco!

## **b. What to run to**

and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace,

Physiologist tell us that you never truly break a bad habit, you can only replace it.

**That is why Ephesians 4:28 says,**

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

When you run from something you must run to something...

He says pursue,

- Righteousness – Right Standing with God and Man
- Faith – A right view of God and his Word
- Love – A right motive for your actions
- And peace – Nothing coming between you and a brother or sister

### **c. Who to run with**

with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

It is not possible to be pure in heart alone...

**That is why he commands you not to forsake the assembly of yourselves together.**

**You need us, we need you**