

Discussion Guide (November 12, 2023)

Bryan Bicket

Message: *Blessed are the pure in heart* (series: #blessed)

PRIMARY PASSAGES

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

Psalm 24:3-4 (NIV): *Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV): *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV): *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

Matthew 19:8-9, 18-20 (NIV): *“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.” ... But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”*

1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV): *“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

Revelation 22:1-5 (NIV): *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

Psalm 24:5-10 (NIV): *They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- A life that is blessed by God and honors God is a life lived from a pure heart
- To be pure is to be “undivided” and “undefiled”
- God cares even about the motivation of our hearts
- The only way we can have and live our lives out of a pure heart is to embrace Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
- One day all followers of Jesus will see God face to face in the New Heaven/New Earth
- We see and help others see God when we treat each other with purity of heart

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was a time in your life that you experienced something “pure”? What other words would you use to describe your experience?
2. Before wrestling with any specific beatitude, it’s important to ask yourselves the question, “Do you want to live your life in a way that is pleasing to God?” Why might that be the case?
3. Where are you finding your heart being divided these days? What specifically would you need to ask God to help you live with an “undivided” heart?
4. When talking about our hearts not being undefiled, but muddied up by our sin, Bryan shared the example of a dog who jumps right back in the mud after taking a bath. What “mud” are you most tempted to dive into these days?
5. God cares about the motivations of our hearts and he knows how we are prone to hypocrisy. In what area of your life are you most prone to live hypocritically and why? How do you want God to help you live with authenticity rather than hypocrisy in this area?
6. Jesus encourages his followers that one day they will see God face to face. Until that time, we help each other and the world “see God” through the way we treat each other with purity of heart. Who is God wanting you to invest more time in this week to help them see Him?

Heavenly Father, thank you for being a God who is pure and holy. Thank you for sending Jesus to purify our muddy hearts and lives and to make us new creations in Christ. Help us to live with undivided and undefiled lives so that others might see you through us. We praise you, our King of Glory, and want to honor you by living lives in line with the purity of who you are. Amen