

# THE BEATITUDES

## MATTHEW 5:8



### OPENING

- Ask your group members to describe someone who is pure in heart.

### SERMON REVIEW

- The Beatitudes are neither attainable nor sustainable without Christ. This becomes evident when the following Beatitude is examined closely.
- Matthew 5:8, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”
- Why is the Lord so concerned with your heart? Because all that you do, indeed all that you are, is a consequence of the state of your heart.
- Heart: one’s being, including mind, will, and emotions.
- Pure: unmixed, untainted, undefiled, clean, or set apart in holiness.
- Blessed are those who are clean and devoted to holiness in their thoughts, feelings, and motives.
- If there’s anything that everyone can agree about, it’s that the human heart is marred by sinful thoughts, feelings, and motives. So has Jesus set us up for failure here?
- Remember: these statements are first descriptive, then prescriptive.
- So how did the disciples get to the point of being pure in heart? It has to be the work of God! (Ezekiel 32:26)
- How does one go from realizing the need for a new heart and recognizing God’s ability to provide it, to receiving it? By being in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Titus 3:3-7 summarizes the entire process beautifully!
- As we’ve stated before, the second half of the Beatitudes addresses our relationship to the rest of humanity. That’s no less true of Matthew 5:8.
- The heart is like a glass of water, filled to the brim. When that glass is bumped or moved, it overflows—proving the quality of the water within. If that water is clean, the spill isn’t a problem; in fact, the water that splashes out may wash or refresh the surrounding area. If, however, the water is dirty, it creates quite a mess.
- To live in purity and righteousness, you must first have a source of purity and righteousness from which to draw! You can only be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:13-16) when he has given you a new, pure heart in Christ.

### DISCUSSION

- Why is it impossible to see God without a pure, holy heart (Hebrews 12:14)?
- We talked about guarding the heart (Proverbs 4:23). Practically speaking, what does that look like? How does one guard his or her heart?
- What’s the difference between *acting* pure and *being* pure? Do the two intersect or overlap at all?

- How does the imagery of Ezekiel 36:25-26 contribute to your understanding of the new heart that has been offered in Christ? What about the words in 2 Corinthians 5:17?
- Read Titus 3:3-7. What stands out to you or strikes you as interesting in this passage?
- A phrase that you may hear within the Christian circles is “living in the overflow.” In light of the verses we’ve examined, what do you think that means?
- How does a follower of Jesus live a holy lifestyle? What does he or she do to draw from that source of purity and righteousness?

### CHALLENGE

- Let this pure heart, the very Spirit of God that has been placed within you, be the source of your every thought and action.

### PLAN AHEAD

- With our series coming to an end, consider committing the Beatitudes to memory, to help you retain the principles of Kingdom life and remember all that God has spoken through them. Encourage your group members to do the same!