

Paradox - a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true.

REVIEW:

- Jesus is talking about the Kingdom of heaven—it starts as a spiritual Kingdom and will become an “*all of reality*” Kingdom.
- Humility is required – we can’t be a part of the Kingdom without it.
- Mourning—for what? For myself and the world.

Matthew 5:8 (NASB 2020) *“²And He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, ³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the gentle, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”*

1. THE HEART – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

- The seat of our will and emotions/desires.
- Real love is not an emotion—it is a choice.

2. A PURE (HOLY AND ETHICAL) HEART.

- This is a problem for humans.
- The ultimate solution – the cross and the Holy Spirit.

A. The purpose of Jesus’ whole sermon – there is no purity in it of ourselves.

- This speaks of our actions and underlying motives.

B. The problem and the solutions –Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus is speaking about a purity that is given—declared righteous.
- A change of desire to be Holy -pure –the right thing for the right reason.

C. This leads me back to Jesus.

- My true motives lead me back to one of four possibilities: Despair, Hypocrisy, Pretending, or Jesus.
- He saved me. He is merciful. He is changing me. The Holy Spirit is pointing things out in me for my good.

Hebrews 4:12–13 (NASB 2020) *“¹²For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer.”*

2 Corinthians 4:5 (NASB 2020) *“⁵For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants on account of Jesus.”*

Proverbs 16:2 (NASB 2020) *“²All the ways of a person are clean in his own sight, but the Lord examines the motives.”*

James 4:1–3 (NASB 2020) *“¹What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is the source not your pleasures that wage war in your body’s parts? ²You lust and do not have, so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, so that you may spend what you request on your pleasures.”*

2 Corinthians 5:16–18 (NASB 2020) *“¹⁶Therefore from now on we recognize no one by the flesh; even though we have known Christ by the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,*

3. THEY WILL SEE GOD—BUT IN WHAT SENSE?

- See in part now but fully in eternity at our death or Jesus' return.
- We will begin to see the activity of God.
- As we are Holy - set apart and pure in heart, we begin to see God's activity.
- We will begin to see ourselves become more like Jesus.

Romans 12:1–2 (NASB 2020) ¹ *Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.* ² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable.*

1 Corinthians 13:11–13 (NASB 2020) ¹¹ *When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.* ¹² *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I also have been fully known.* ¹³ *But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Ephesians 1:17–19 (NASB 2020) ¹⁷ *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.* ¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,* ¹⁹ *and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might...*

4. THE WASHING BY HIS WORD IS DONE BY GOD AND BY US.

John 17:17 (NASB 2020) ¹⁷ *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

- I need to understand what I am as a believer – I have a battle.
- Ask God to speak the word over you and choose to believe it.
- Reject my impure motives by thanking God for giving me His promise and His word.
- Do the right thing no matter what.
- Participate with others washing and being washed.

FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

Opening Question: Describe a time when your heart has led you astray.

Main Point: The world celebrates those who “*follow their heart*” regardless of where it takes them. God desires to transform our heart to align with His will and His word.

Main Scripture: **Matthew 5:8**

Head Questions:

- What does it mean to be pure in heart (**Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23-26**)?
- Since the heart is deceitful, how do you know when to ignore it or when to listen to it?

Heart Questions:

- Read **Psalms 86:11-13**. When do you struggle to have an undivided heart or mind?
- How do you realign your heart with God when you get off track?

Hands Questions:

- What are ways you can eliminate distractions and follow God with your whole heart (**James 1:22-25**)?

Additional Scripture: **Ezekiel 36:26**

Tips and Resources: Breakout for prayer (*men & women*) and pray for each other in following God with your whole heart.