



Connect Discussion Guide

07.18.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Matthew 5:8

Key Scriptures:

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

- Matthew 5:8

"The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted...Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

- Matthew 23:11-12, 25-28

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

- Proverbs 4:23

"To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled."

- Titus 1:15

"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

- Hebrews 12:2

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

- James 1:27

Message Highlights:

- Purity is a state of ritual cleanliness or free of guilt and sin.
- We must own the fact that we often see what we choose to see (sin versus purity).
- What we are looking at is so important because it influences where we are going.
- We don't jump to the "do's and don'ts", rather we saturate ourselves in the life-changing presence of our Savior who transforms us from the inside out.

Conversation Starter:

Tell your group about a specific instance that time spent saturated in God's word literally refreshed you, similar to how a dip in the pool on a warm day refreshes us.

Discuss the Message:

1. Think back to your earliest memory of your interaction with the concept of purity; what was your initial disposition or attitude toward purity? How can we cultivate purity in our hearts without an attitude of striving for perfection?
2. Read Titus 1:15; discuss your reaction to the statement, "To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure..." What implications does this have as far as the influence the state of our heart has on the rest of our lives?
3. D.A. Carson wisely said, "Purity of heart must never be confused with outward conformity to rules." Discuss the possible disconnect between doing what appears right on the outside in relation to the motivation of your heart.
4. We must own the fact that we often see what we choose to see; sin leads to disillusionment while purity illuminates that which is true and holy. Think back on your week; what have you chosen to see this week? How can you position your heart to choose to see that which is pure and holy this coming week?
5. Why is what we choose to look at so important? How does your outlook affect that of those around you?

Pray:

Lord, we praise you and thank you for purifying our hearts. We admit that too often, we allow our eyes to see that which stems from sin rather than seeking you. Help us to yearn for all that is pure. May we be aware of your loving guidance as you transform our whole being from the inside out. We are in awe of your faithfulness; though we don't always understand your ways, we put our whole trust in you.