

Going Deeper Study Guide

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Matthew 5:8 – *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*

Main Truth

Purity of heart is not external moral perfection but an inward work of God. Through the new birth, God replaces our heart of stone with a heart of flesh, giving us new desires, new motives, and a growing longing for His glory above our own. The pure in heart are those whose lives are increasingly shaped by a sincere devotion to God and who find their satisfaction in Him alone.

Sermon Summary

Pastor Patrick reminded us that the Beatitudes are not a ladder we climb to earn salvation, but a description of what God produces in those He has saved. As believers grow from poverty of spirit, mourning over sin, meekness, hunger for righteousness, and mercy, God continues His sanctifying work by cultivating purity of heart.

Drawing from Ezekiel 36, the study highlighted God's promise to remove the heart of stone and give a heart of flesh. A heart of stone is resistant, unfeeling, and spiritually dead. A heart of flesh is sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit and responsive to God's Word.

Jesus contrasted this truth with the Pharisees, who focused on outward appearances while neglecting the condition of the heart. They cleaned the outside of the cup, but inside remained corruption and death. God is concerned first with the heart because everything in life flows from it.

The pure in heart are not those who never struggle with sin. Rather, they are those whom God has transformed and is continuing to sanctify. Their desires, motives, thoughts, and actions increasingly flow from a love for God rather than a desire for self-glory.

The promise attached to this Beatitude is staggering: *they shall see God*. Even now believers see God's work by faith, but one day they will behold Him face to face in glory. This future hope fuels present faithfulness.

Key Themes

1. The Heart Is the Source of Life

In Scripture, the heart is not merely the seat of emotions. It is the center of our desires, motives, affections, and decisions.

Proverbs 4:23

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

The condition of the heart determines the direction of the life.

Reflection

- What currently occupies your thoughts most often?
- What do your daily choices reveal about the desires of your heart?
- What situations tend to expose selfish motives in you?

2. God Gives a New Heart

The gospel is not self-improvement. It is heart replacement.

Ezekiel 36:26

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."

Before salvation, we are spiritually dead and unable to please God. Through regeneration, God grants spiritual life and new desires.

Reflection

- How have your desires changed since coming to Christ?
- Are there areas where you still find yourself resisting God's work?
- How does this truth encourage you when you struggle with sin?

3. Purity Is About Motives, Not Merely Actions

The Pharisees often performed outwardly impressive acts, but their hearts remained far from God.

Matthew 23:25-26

"First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean."

God is concerned not only with what we do but why we do it.

Reflection

Consider:

- Do I serve to be noticed or to glorify God?
- Do I obey God only when others are watching?
- Do I secretly crave recognition more than faithfulness?

4. Sanctification Is Already and Not Yet

Believers are declared righteous in Christ and yet continue to grow in holiness.

Philippians 1:6

"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

The pure in heart are already cleansed in Christ and are continually being purified by the Spirit.

Reflection

- Where have you seen spiritual growth over the past year?
- What sins or habits is God currently exposing?
- How can you cooperate with God's sanctifying work?

5. The Greatest Reward Is God Himself

The promise is not merely heaven. The promise is God.

Psalms 73:25

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you."

The pure in heart increasingly desire God above every earthly blessing.

Reflection

- What do you most often look to for comfort?
- What would be difficult to surrender if God asked?
- Can you honestly say that God Himself is your greatest treasure?

Digging Deeper

Read Psalm 24:3-6

1. Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
2. What connection do you see between clean hands and a pure heart?
3. How does Christ fulfill these requirements for us?
4. How does the gospel empower us to pursue holiness?

Read Hebrews 12:14

"Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

1. Why is holiness necessary for seeing God?
2. What is the difference between pursuing holiness and trying to earn salvation?
3. How does God's grace motivate holiness?

Read 1 John 3:2-3

1. What future hope is given to believers?
2. How does the promise of seeing Christ affect present living?
3. How should future glory shape today's choices?

Family Worship Guide

Read Together

Matthew 5:8

Discuss

For Younger Children

- What does "pure" mean?
- Can we make our own hearts clean?
- Who gives us a new heart?
- What does it mean to love God more than anything else?

For Older Children

- Why was Jesus critical of the Pharisees?
- What's the difference between obeying God to impress people and obeying Him because we love Him?
- What are some things that compete for our hearts?
- Why is seeing God the greatest reward?

Family Prayer

"Father, thank You for giving us new hearts through Christ. Help us not to seek the praise of people but to desire Your glory above all else. Purify our thoughts, motives, and actions. Teach us to love what You love and to find our satisfaction in You. Thank You for the promise that one day we will see You face to face. In Jesus' name, amen."

Take It Into the Week

Ask yourself each day:

"Am I doing this for God's glory or my own?"

Pray Psalm 51:10 daily:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

That prayer captures the heart of this Beatitude—dependence on God to do what only God can do.