



March 15-16, 2025

Historical Context and Summary

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (v. 8)

The word *pure* (katharos) means clean (we get our English word “catharsis” or “cathartic” here). It also means “unmixed,” like a pure substance not mixed with something else (i.e., oil and water).¹ In other words, to be pure in heart refers not only to external behavior but also to the motives of the heart. As Craig Blomberg writes,

“The ‘pure in heart’ exhibit a single-minded devotion to God that stems from the internal cleansing created by following Jesus. Holiness is a prerequisite for entering God’s presence. The pure in heart pass this test, so they will see God and experience intimate fellowship with him.”²

A pure heart is clean of unconfessed sin. And, even then, God is the only one who can give us a pure heart.

When we are pure in heart, we will see God. To “see” means to “know” God intimately. One author explains what this means:

“Only those with a pure heart will know Jesus because that is what Jesus sees. He doesn’t fall for the words that we say or the act that we put for people in our lives. God knows our heart and our desires and that’s what He is most interested in. The truth is that even after we accept Jesus into our lives, we will still fail. But thankfully God continues to forgive us! He honors our heart’s desires, and if our heart truly desires Him and His will for our lives, even through our failures, then we are blessed and we will see God.”³

¹ Lifeline Bible Church, “The Beatitudes of Be Attitudes,” <https://lifelinebiblechurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/THE-BEATITUDES.pdf>. (Accessed March 14, 2025).

² Craig L. Blomberg, *Matthew* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1992), kindle edition.

³ Quin Jackson, “Weekly Devotional: Beatitudes Series — Pure in Heart,” July 28, 2017. <https://www.gcu.edu/blog/spiritual-life/weekly-devotional-beatitude-series-pure-heart>. (Accessed March 14, 2025).

Discussion Guide

Break the Ice

-This week we are talking about being 'pure in heart' from the Beatitudes. The idea of being pure is to be 100% one substance, to be unmixed. Share about a funny story about a good mix up that happened in your life.

Up

-Read Proverbs 4:23. What stands out, confuses, or challenges you from this passage or the message?

-How does recognizing the pattern of "less now, more later" in the Beatitudes affect your understanding of what it means to be blessed?

-What changes when we make the being pure the end goal, rather than God, Himself?

In

-What pressures, cultural norms, or desires of your heart challenge your ability to pursue a pure heart?

-Would you be willing to share about a time where following your heart's desires led you to places you never intended to go and created a mess?

Out

-Pastor Brad gave an alternate way to view temptation. One where we don't see it as negative in our life, but an opportunity to choose love. What is your perspective on this?

-How can the prayer "Here I am, God all devoted to you" transform our approach to success, difficulties, and future plans?

Prayer

-Spend time praying for those in the group who are on a journey towards showing someone Mercy. Pray that our view of mercy is shaped by a greater understanding of God's mercy towards us.