

Matthew 5:1–8

- 1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.
- 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Beatitudes – Part 5 **Matthew 5:8**

INTRO:

The Sermon on the Mount opens with a series of beatitudes which describe the character traits which mark those who belong to the Kingdom. To say it a slightly different way, the Lord Jesus says, these folks are the ones who enjoy the favor and blessing from God. We have been slowly exploring each of these beatitudes. Today we consider the beatitude that most makes my heart beat faster. ***“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).***

I. BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART (V.8)

II. THEY SHALL SEE GOD

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“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

A. God’s favor and blessing are upon those who are pure in heart. We learn early on in the Bible that this is an indispensable attribute we must have to enter into our LORD’s presence. **Psalm 24:3-5** reads,

“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

B. We need to understand in the first place what the heart is. When we speak of the heart today we generally think of the physical organ or the center of our emotions.

The Bible looks at the heart in an entirely different way. Here are three examples from the Old Testament and the New.

1. We read in **Deuteronomy 6:5**,
“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

This is not a statement of emotional commitment. The heart talks about the inner being, all that makes you who you are.

2. Isaiah 29:13 ***“Therefore the LORD said: ‘Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,’***

3. A famous New Testament reference says:
“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9–10.

Your heart is the real you. Whatever has your heart has all of you and all of your life.

C. Now we begin to understand what Jesus talked about when He talked about our hearts. We need to discover the real trouble with our hearts. **Jeremiah 17:9-10** is a passage you probably memorized early in your life.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind.”

In its natural state, our heart is evil and deceitful and we are not able to tame our hearts.

D. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself said in **Matthew 15:18-20** ***“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”***

He also said,

Matthew 12:34 ***“Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”***

E. Since our hearts are so naturally evil, how can we possibly have a pure heart?

1. The purity of heart God requires is first the purity in heart that comes through our salvation. We find a complete discussion of this in the book of **Romans**.

Romans 4:4-5 *“Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.”*

While our sin is completely forgiven in Christ when we are justified, we still have a desire to sin.

2. This is why we need the indwelling work of God to make us like unto our Savior, pure and holy. This is vitally important and is the essence of this beatitude. God Who saved us will not leave us in our sinful condition. He will work in us to make us like our Savior. Do you remember **John 15:2-3**?

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He [cleans] in order that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

We have a theological term for this work of God in us and our striving together with Him to accomplish purity in us. We call it sanctification or growing in holiness and purity of heart. This is why the writer to the Hebrews exhorted us in **Hebrews 12:14** *“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”*

II. THEY SHALL SEE GOD

“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

A. The divine favor which God showers on those who are pure in heart is that they will see God. To get the blessing here we need to remember Moses in **Exodus 33:18-20**?

“And [Moses] said, ‘Please, show me Your glory.’ Then [the LORD] said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’ But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’”

Moses, the man who spoke to God ‘mouth to mouth’ even Moses could not see God and live. Why? Because he like us has to be changed (**1 Corinthians 15:50-58**).

B. The wonder of this beatitude is that one day we who know the Lord Jesus will see God. Sometimes the glory of a truth is in its repetition.

1 John 3:2 *“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”*

We shall see Him as He is because we shall be changed to be like Him.

What Do We Take From This?

1. The mark of someone who is a possessor of the Kingdom of Heaven is one who strives together with God to be pure in heart.

2. It is not our growth in grace which will earn us the right to see God. Seeing God is something God gives us entirely through grace. However, the one who has been saved by grace will grow through the word of the Holy Spirit of God through the Word of God to become more and more pure in heart. **1 John 3:3** says, *“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”*

*Sweet is the hope that is thrilling my soul—
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!
Then what if the dark clouds of sin o’er me roll,
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!
Refrain
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!
What a joy it will be
When His face I shall see,
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!*

Hymn #549 Face to Face