

The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes

(6) “Blessed are the Pure in Heart”

📖 Matthew 5:8 (NIV) “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

📖 Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

📖 Jeremiah 17:9–10a (NLT) “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? ¹⁰ But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives.”

Pure in Heart means being single-minded not double-hearted.

📖 Matthew 6:24 (NIV) “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”

📖 James 4:4 (NIV) “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

📖 1 John 2:15 (NIV) “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Pure in Heart means being clean on the inside not just on the outside.

📖 Psalm 24:3–4 (NIV) “Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.”

1. Authentic people are honest with **God**.

📖 Matthew 23:25–28 (NLT) “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too. ²⁷ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸ Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

2. Authentic people are honest with **themselves**.

📖 Isaiah 6:1–8 (NIV) “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.” ⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” ⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!””

3. Authentic people are honest with others.

 Proverbs 10:9 (NIV) “The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.”

 1 John 3:18 (NIV) “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

Pure in Heart means getting to see God not just talk about Him.

 Hebrews 1:3 (NIV) “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

 Hebrews 10:11–12 (NLT) “Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. ¹² But our High Priest offered Himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then He sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand.”

 Psalm 27:13 (NIV) “I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.”

Digging Deeper— What does a pure heart look like? Who in your life models what a pure heart should look like? Tell us why you agree or disagree with the following statement: “**We all know people who are hypocrites, and most of us are convinced that we aren’t one.**” Why is hypocrisy so prevalent? Why is hypocrisy a detriment? Describe a time when you saw God in your life. Do you see God move on a more regular basis now or before? —If His activity in your life is different, what changed to cause that?