

Crossroads Baptist Church  
May 16, 2007 6:30  
Matthew 5: 8  
Beatitudes: The Pursuit of Happiness #6

## “Can You Be Happy and Pure?”

In this beatitude is one of the greatest statements our Lord ever made. It is profound and majestic. One author described it as “the holy of Holies” of the Beatitudes.

### I. Jesus makes us a promise that is incredible.

#### A. The promise is that one can be extremely happy in this life.

The word “blessed” we have seen in every verse. It means supreme happiness and spiritual prosperity. It means to be “extremely blessed of the Lord.”

Every sinner seeks happiness and genuine satisfaction, but are looking for it in all the wrong places. The way to this happiness is by holiness and no sinner seeks holiness.

To be happy one must be holy.

#### B. The promise is that one can see God in this life.

He then says, “They shall see God.” But is that possible in this life?

Exodus 33:20 “No man shall see Me and live.”

I Timothy 1:16 “Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see.”

No man could have a face-to-face vision of God and survive.

God’s standards for His presence are high  
Psalm 24:3 “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....”

But Hebrews 11:27 speaking of Moses said, “By faith he forsook Egypt, not rearing the wrath of the King, for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.”

Moses saw God, but with spiritual eyes, with the eyes of faith. So I believe Jesus is saying that we shall see God is that we shall recognize God – we shall know God.

### II. Jesus is the supreme authority on the human heart.

#### A. The definition of the human heart.

He is not speaking of the muscle that pumps blood through your body. He is not speaking of the physical heart.

Matthew 5:28 “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Matthew 12:35 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure, brings forth evil things.”

Jesus defines the heart as the center of the human personality. The core being of who we are. This would include your mind, your will and your emotions. The heart is the fountain from all of the stream of your life proceed.

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it springs the issues of life.”

Your heart is the birthplace of all your behavior. So goes your heart, so goes your life. If your heart is corrupt, your life will be. If your heart is pure, your life will be.

Proverbs 23: 7 “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Matthew 15: 19-20 “For out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies

Did you notice the first word on the list? Thoughts. The heart is the master control of the thinking process of your life. The heart and the mind are inseparable.

Your thoughts are to you what the roots are to a tree. Man sees a branch, but the roots determine what the branch is like.

I see your life as it is lived out, but the heart determines what type of life you are living.

I Samuel 16:7 “For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord sees the heart.”

#### B. The diagnosis of the heart.

The Bible tells us there is a desperate problem with the human heart. Every person is born with a bad heart.

1. The heart is thoroughly contaminated with sin. John 3:19 “Men love darkness rather than light.”

2. The heart is depraved. Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?” The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart.
3. The heart is blind. Eph. 5:18
4. The heart is hard. Romans 2:5
5. The heart is unbelieving. Hebrews 3:12
6. The heart is enmity against God, full of rebellion and evil.
7. The heart is deceitful. Same word as the name “Jacob” Trickery
8. The heart will even deceive itself.
9. Whoever believes in his own heart is a fool Proverbs 28:6
10. You can not diagnosis your own heart, only God. Jeremiah 17:10 “I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind...”

### III. Jesus is the only one who can make a pure heart.

It a “pure heart” then possible? Is Jesus requiring something that is impossible?

Proverbs 20:9 “Who can say, ‘I have made my heart clean? I am pure from my sin?’”

But how can we see God and we can’t do anything about our unclean hearts?

Our hearts are blind and so are we. Our hearts are dirty and so are we. If you are trying to wash dirty dishes in dirty water, is there any way you can get the dishes clean?

The Greek word here for “pure” is the same word used for purified air, purified water or purified gold. There is nothing in the air that is polluting it. There is nothing in the water that is polluting it. There is nothing in the gold that is diluting it. It is pure water, pure air, pure gold. All the impurities have been removed, it is absent of any dirt, filth or contamination.

Only the gospel of Jesus Christ can do that for a heart. How does He do it? By giving us a spiritual heart transplant. He gives us a new heart.

Jeremiah 24:7 “Then I will give them a heart to know me that I am the Lord...”

Ezekiel 36:25-26 “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you and you shall be clean, I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take out the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

The heart is where conviction takes place. Acts 2:27 “They were pricked in the heart.”

The light comes on in our heart. II Corinthians 4:6 “But God commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has hone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

The heart is where conversion occurs. Romans 10: 9-10 “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness....”

The heart becomes clean. Acts 15:9 “Having purified their hearts by faith..” Hebrews 10:22 “Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.” I John 1:7 “The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.”

Again, don’t overlook the significance of this Beatitude in the light of the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus gives a strong rebuke to the Pharisees and their external legalistic religion with all their rules and regulations. They had reduced righteousness and holiness to an external matter of conduct. But Jesus is declaring that salvation is first and foremost about an external change with resulting behavioral change.

He is concerned with the heart.

Psalm 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight.”

### IV. Jesus describes a “pure heart.”

What does a pure heart look like in real life? What are the marks or characteristics of a pure heart?

#### A. A pure heart is a single heart.

It means to have one single devotion and that devotion is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 86: 11-12 “Teach me your way, Oh Lord, I will walk in your truth. Unite my heart to fear your name, I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all of my heart.”

A single, unified heart is clean of idols and serves and lives for only one – Jesus.

He worships only Him. He gives his devotion to only Him.

It’s the opposite of being double-minded as James 4:8 reveals “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you, cleanse your hands you sinners and purify your hearts you double-minded.”

To be double-minded is to have a divided heart of loyalties and loves. You have divided your allegiances. You are not fixed on Jesus. There is corruption in your inner being. You are attempting to serve two masters.

Jesus alone is Lord and He will not share His rightly place with anyone or anything.

This results in an instability in your walk with the Lord. James 1:8 "...he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

He is wavering. The Word of God is not his sole authority and thus he is not making sound, solid decisions. His foundation is shaky just as Jesus predicted in Matthew 7 when you don't build your house on a rock.

We need to cry out, "Search me, Oh God, and know my heart. Try me and see if there be any wicked way in me."

Psalms 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

John Newton wrote,  
"I asked the Lord, that I might grow  
In faith, and love, and every grace;  
Might more of His salvation know,  
And seek more earnestly His face.

I hoped that in some favoured hour  
At once He'd answer my request,  
And by His love's constraining power  
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel  
The hidden evils of my heart;  
And let the angry powers of hell  
Assault my soul in every part.

Yea more, with His own hand He seemed  
Intent to aggravate my woe;  
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,  
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

"Lord, why is this?" I trembling cried,  
"Wilt thou pursue Thy worm to death?"  
"Tis in this way," the Lord replied,  
"I answer prayer for grace and faith.

These inward trials I employ  
From self and pride to set thee free;  
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,  
That thou may'st seek thy all in me."

### **B. A pure heart is a clean heart.**

Ezekiel said that God wants to cleanse you from all your idols and from all your filthiness.

He wants us to have a heart that pursues practical holiness, uncontaminated morally, unspotted from the world.

We will gravitate to what we like. If we want to be holy, we must be attracted by the beauty of holiness.

I Peter 1: 15-16 "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy, in all of your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

There is a mirror verse for this beatitude in Hebrews 12: 14 "Pursue peace with all people and pursue holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

Pursue – follow after holiness with great diligence, fervency, passion

This is the same thing as sanctification. A life that is set apart from the world for God. Not pursuing the world's plans but God's plans.

I Thess. 4:3 "For this is the will of God your sanctification." This is God's will and for it to happen, we must be converted from the old dead self and set apart to God and His ways only.

It's the only way we can experience eternal life. Romans 6:22 "But now having been set free from sin and having become slaves of God, you have fruit to holiness and the end everlasting life."

The desire to be set free is paramount. II Cor 7:1 "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord."

I want to get rid of anything that would contaminate my life. To walk as Jesus walked. To be pleasing unto the Lord. We know God looks on the heart, so we want to purify ourselves completely.

We know there is no sinless perfection here on this earth, but we don't become satisfied with sin. Our passion, our drive, our pursuit is holiness.

This cleansing comes through the Word of God.

John 15:3 “Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”  
John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy Word; thy Word is truth.”

As we walk in the light of His Word.

### **V. Jesus describes the prize of a pure heart.**

“They shall see God.”

Literally...”They and they alone shall be continually seeing God for themselves.”

WOW what a statement.

Only them.. it is very clear.

They see God for themselves. Not second handed.

They see Him in their eyes of faith. They see things that other people don't see.  
They see that which is invisible.

Hebrews 11: 1 “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

I have already made reference to Moses in Hebrews 11:27 who “endured seeing Him who is invisible.”

They see God on the pages of the Word of God.

They see God in their own lives. Ephesians 2:10 “We are His workmanship.”

They see God working in all the events of their life. Romans 8:28

They know they shall see God in future glory. I John 3:2-3 “Now we are the sons of God and it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.”

They will only be satisfied as they see Him. Psalm 17:15 “As for me, I will see your face in righteousness, I shall be satisfied when I awake in your likeness.”

Job 19: 26 “After my skin is destroyed this I know, that in my flesh, I shall see God.”

Rev. 22: 4 “And they shall see his face, and his name shall be in their foreheads.”

Fannie E. Davison (1877) wrote,

“Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;  
May I devote my life wholly to Thee;  
Watch Thou my wayward feet.”  
Guide me with counsel sweet;  
Purer in heart, help me to be.

Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;  
Teach me to do Thy will most lovingly;  
Be Thou my Friend and Guide,  
Let me with Thee abide;  
Purer in heart, help me to be.

Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;  
Until Thy holy face one day I see:  
Keep me from secret sin,  
Reign Thou my soul within;  
Purer in heart, help me to be.

Jeff Nelson wrote,  
“Purify my heart.  
Touch me with your cleansing fire.  
Take me to the cross.  
Holiness is my desire.  
Breath your life in me.  
Kindle a love that flows from your throne.  
Oh, purify my heart. Purify my heart.”