

Matthew 5.8 – Blessed are the Pure in Heart

“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life” Prov. 4.23

Announcements

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Community Groups:

This is where we gather to pray, study and encourage one another as part of the missional work of the Gospel. We would love to get to know you more, and this is one of the best ways to get planted as a part of Seaside.

Please consider joining a CG to strengthen the not only your family, but the larger community.

Contact

eric@seasidechurch.com for info on where groups meet or to lead/host one.

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The heart is a tricky thing. We find it at once condemning us, at other times being a source of joy. Jeremiah 17.9 says that, *“The heart is more deceitful than all else, and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”* But for believers we have the promise in Ezekiel 11.19, *“And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And **I will take the heart of stone** out of their flesh and **give them a heart of flesh.**”* So, why the struggle?

To have a pure heart is the issue here. The word *pure* here can be seen a variety of ways, but as a summary, it is a **single-minded, with nothing hidden, devotion.** It is a heart that lives in the light. It is constantly being observed, checked, re-checked, and laid before God. This is because the promise of Jesus here is that the pure in heart *will see God*, and God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1.5). We are no longer children of darkness but of the light (1 Thess. 5.5). But we know that it is a struggle to be in the light, for even someone like Paul struggled with purity of his heart (Romans 7). This also seem in the heart of the Psalmists in places like Ps 15,19, 24.1-6, 26.1-4, Ps. 27.7-8. We have a deep need of the only One who, as Daniel 2.22 says – *“...reveals deep and hidden things, he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him.”* This is because impurity is only shown through the Great Refiner (Malachi 3.2), through the One who is indeed pure and holy.

So what are the signs of a people seeking pure hearts?

- We *realize* our need and *desire* Him to change us (Prov 20.9, Ps 14.1; 24)
- We *seek* Him & desire to *know* Him with all our heart. (Deut 4.29; 30.14 Ps 14.2; 27.4; 34.10,14; 40.8,16; 69.32; 105.4; 119.2; Jer. 29.13 Matt. 6.23)
- We *walk* by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5.16; Jas 4.7-8; 2 Cor. 6.16 -7.1)
- We *lay* our hearts before Him, that He show us any wicked way in them, and lead us in the way everlasting (Ps 17.3; 24; 33.15; 44.21; 139)
- We *trust* the promises and provisions of God, that:
 - He *can* and *did* provide a payment for sin (Ps 13.5-6; 51.10)
 - He provides a *way of escape* from sin (1 Corinthians 10.13)
 - He promises *strength* for our hearts (Ps 10.17; 27.3,8,14; 28.7; 31.24; 37.31)
 - He offers *forgiveness* & promises to *cleanse* us when we stumble (1 John 1.9)
 - He promises to *reward* those who *seek* Him (Ps 37.4; Hebrews 11.6)
 - He promises a *final purity* of heart and flesh (1 John 3.2)

What are some of the signs of an impure heart? An impure heart obscures truth (John 3.19-20), is self-centered (Rev. 3.17), takes pleasure in sin (2 Tim. 3.4), is unbelieving (Heb 3.12), and hates anything resembling purity (Mic. 3.2).

For that reason, Luke writes that, *“The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills the heart.* (6.45)

Being one who is pure in heart is to be one that seeks that their heart be laid before the Father of lights, so that He might do the work already promised.

“That [Mt. 5.8] is what Christianity is all about, that is its message” Martyn Lloyd-Jones