

Lesson 6: The Heart of the Kingdom Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8

Introduction:

So far in this Kingdom, Jesus has inverted everything people thought God's presence required. Spiritual poverty, mourning over sin, meekness, starving for righteousness, mercy for the shortcomings of others, and now purity of the inner man, instead of just an outward appearance, inherit the blessings of God's Kingdom.

What does it mean to be pure in heart, and how does one go about becoming pure in heart? First, let's define purity, and its opposite: hypocrisy. Then, we will identify why only purity gains a relationship with God, while hypocrisy misses the blessings of God entirely. Finally, we will learn how one becomes pure in heart, and why seeing God is the joy and purpose of a Jesus follower.

Purity: Without admixture; unmixed with undesirable elements; free from the contaminating influences of sin. ([HELPS Word Studies](#))

Hypocrisy: an actor under an assumed character; a performer under a mask. ([Strong Concordance](#))

The hypocrite gains temporary applause, esteem, and riches; the pure in heart gain a relationship with the One who created them. Incidentally, Jesus used the word "hypocrite" 17 times within the Gospels, so it was something He wanted to address and rebuke in those who followed Him.

Let's dive into the study questions to see what both the Old Testament and Jesus' teaching throughout the remainder of the Sermon on the Mount have to say about being pure in heart.

Study Questions:

1. In Matthew 5:8, Jesus addressed the heart, or the motives of why a person does what he does. This beatitude comes directly from Psalm 24:3-6. List the things associated with a pure heart from these verses.
2. Look up the word "vanity" in the 1828 Webster's Dictionary and list the relevant definitions that apply to those who do not have pure motives.
3. The words "sworn deceitfully" appeal to God's affirmation of one's statements of truth. In other words, when a person acts outside of God's ways but insists that God has affirmed what they have done, they do great damage to God's perceived character. What are some ways hypocrisy swears deceitfully? Can you think of specific modern examples of such deception?

4. In Matthew 6: 1-18, Jesus uses three specific examples of impure motives. List the actions with their motives, and what Jesus commanded instead.

5. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus summarizes all of these examples into one statement. What master does the hypocrite serve? What master does the pure in heart serve?

6. HELPS Word study identifies the word "mammon" as a transliteration of an Aramaic word understood as a term for "the treasure a person trusts in." What is the treasure for the pure in heart, as given by Jesus in Matthew 5:8?

7. Purity of heart addresses the motives, but how does one attain this kind of purity? In John 15:3, what does Jesus identify as the means of cleansing His followers?

8. Again in John 17:17, Jesus identifies the means of sanctification, which means to purify, to make holy, to set apart for service. What does the sanctifying?

9. The Pharisees memorized entire books of Scripture from the Old Testament, and yet they were blind to who Jesus was and what God wanted from them. How can professing Christians avoid the trap of hypocrisy and become pure in motive? (See 1 Peter 1:22-25 for Peter's appropriation of Jesus' teaching on purity.)

10. Having a relationship with God in this Kingdom is an amazing promise for those who see themselves as coming up short of His holiness. How does seeing God for who He is help the believer avoid both hypocrisy and lawless living? Why is this balance important?

11. Write the greatest takeaway you found in this week's study.