

The Foundations of a Better Culture: *Blessed are the Pure in Heart*

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

One of the major cultural shifts taking place, that is both Biblical and beneficially healthy is placing more of the emphasis upon self. What have I done? What am I doing for the kingdom? A much greater emphasis is placed upon our individual walk with Christ than what we do as a church.

In the Lord's parable of the talents (Mt 25:14-30), the emphasis is what each servant personally did.

- A talent was used as a weight and **coins** (NAS: one talent = _____ years wages)
- Rather than ability, see this as _____ (each given opportunities to honor their Master)
- As a totality: they started with _____ talents. They ended with _____ talents
 - the one talent man is called wicked and lazy
 - while the unit did well...the one talent man had no part in that
 - one cannot count the success of the group as yours, if you did not help out

A. Blessed are the Pure in Heart

<p>Beatitude</p> <p>Poor in spirit Those who mourn The meek Hunger and thirst for righteousness Merciful Pure in heart</p>

<p>Blessing</p>

1. The two immediate challenges of this parable:

(a) understanding purity of Heart

- this is more than abstaining from sin: not a discourse on the evils of pornography
- this beatitude seems to come directly from Psalms 24

Psalms 24:3-4: "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully"



- Blessed (approved of God) = ascending the hill of the Lord
= standing in God's holy place
 - Clean hands/pure heart =
 - Falsehood =
 - Deceitfully =
- Pure in heart means undivided heart or single heart or focused heart—100% pure



This beatitude is similar to James 4:8:

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts you double-minded.

James 1:7-8 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Mark 7:21-23 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness."

How do I move the needle from sorta following God to fully committed? How do I get the single heart?

(ex) 1 Tim 3:2 in the qualities of a bishop, we find, "husband of one wife" which literally means, "a one woman man." - this is a man whose heart is set upon one woman, his wife

• **Many things distract us: Luke 8:12-15**

Distracted driver is a threat to the road.

- list some common distractions that takes our attention off of God:

Spiritual Distractions (Lk 10:40-41)



- Singular focused was the Lord (Lk 12:14)

Jn 4:34 why did Jesus call the work of God "My Food"?

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(b) the other challenge of this beatitude, is the blessing: seeing God

Rev 22:4—but it's not a future concept

In becoming pure in heart, we see God. We know God. We understand God

