

The Beatitudes

The Sixth Beatitude

Int.

1. Aim: To explain the sixth beatitude about "the Pure in Heart".
2. Mt. 5:1-2 There are eight Beatitudes
 - a. The first four discuss our relation to God -- Man to God
 - b. The last four discuss our relation to Man -- Man to Man
3. Mt. 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."
4. This is the most widely known and the best loved of all the beatitudes.
5. Beatitude = A beautiful attitude, the formula for happiness
6. We will discuss: The heart, the pure in heart, Reward [See God]

Discussion

I. WHAT IS THE HEART ?

- A. This is the spiritual man - not the blood pump
 1. It includes his intellect, his will, his emotions, feelings
 2. This is the part of man which comprehends his mind and emotions
- B. Scriptures
 1. Prov. 23:7a "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he:..."
 2. 1 Pet 3:4 "...the hidden man of the heart.."
 3. Mt. 15:19a "for out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."
 4. Prov. 4:27 "Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.:"
 5. Mt. 12:34b "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

C. The Jews had a mistaken idea about the heart

1. In the time of Christ the Jews had come to the conclusion that observing a ritual or a ceremony would be pleasing to God.
2. In their practice of religion the heart had very little to do with obedience.
3. If a man kept the external ceremonies and rituals he was considered a fine religious person, even if his heart was filled with pride, bitterness, hate, envy, and jealousy.
4. Jesus taught that in order to be right before God a person had to also have a pure heart.
5. Mt. 15:7-8 NKJV Jesus said to them: "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.'" This is from --- {Isa. 29:13} "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:"
6. He also warned in Mt. 23:25, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess."
7. And again in: Matt 23:27-28 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead [men's] bones, and of all uncleanness. 28. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."
8. Jesus taught that the heart was very important in our service to God.

9. This is our "purity monitor" purifying every act, every thought, every motive and every attitude.

II. WHAT IS IT TO BE PURE IN HEART ? "Blessed are the Pure in heart"

A. Definition

1. Pure = "Katharos"- sincere, unfeigned, upright, void of evil. Two main thoughts in this definition:
 - a. Moral cleanness and
 - b. Sincerity of motive - Ill. - Card on Sincere -- sine - cera
2. Pure food is free from contamination and provides nourishment for strength:
 - a. Clean - not poisonous
 - b. Also gives help
3. Pure Gold is free from Dross
4. To have a pure heart means that we are:
 - a. We have been obedient to the gospel - sins forgiven
 - b. We are living Morally upright and clean - free from evil
 - c. We are sincere in motive and purpose -- not hypocritical
5. A pure heart not only has an absence of sin, but also a love for mankind.

B. What must we do to have a pure heart?

1. Think on the right things
 - a. Phil. 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

- b. Pure - chaste, clean
 - c. The cup that is full will hold no more; keep your heart full of good thoughts, that bad thoughts may find no room to enter.
 - d. "A person may not be what he thinks he is, but what he thinks, he is."
 - e. "All that a man does outwardly is but the expression and completion of his inward thought."
 - f. Prov. 23:7 "as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."
 - g. Evil companions can influence our thoughts - if we are with people who use curse words then eventually we will use curse words when we get angry. Or at least you will think of them.
 - h. I Cor. 15:33 ASV "Be not deceived: evil companions corrupt good morals." - "Be not deceived: good companions cultivate good morals."
2. Love the Right Things
- a. Mk. 12:30-31 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. 31. And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."
 - b. Love God - with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength
 - c. Love neighbor as thyself
 - d. In observing these two commandments everything else will be covered.
 - e. Love Life = life of love to God and man
 - f. 1 Jn. 2:15a "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...."

- g. If we love God and our fellow man then we will be pure in heart.
- 3. As we think right and Love Right We will be well on our way to having a pure heart!! But how does a pure heart show up in our life?

C. Moral actions of a pure heart:

1. Controlled tongue

- a. Matt. 12:34b NKJV “..For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”
- b. A pure heart means we have a pure tongue
- c. Eliminating all evil and sinful use of our tongue:
 - (1) Profanity & cursing
 - (2) Lying and deceit and Gossip
- d. Dirty mouth = impure dirty heart
- e. Wash mouth with soap [A pure heart produces a clean mouth]
- f. Instead in our mouth we will have kindness and good things

2. Clothing

- a. Clothing of our body is an indication of a pure heart
- b. People of the world do not care how they dress - no shame or embarrassment
- c. God gave rules for clothing in Gen. 3:7,21 “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”
- d. Dress your body with a pure heart!!!

- e. "You are part of the bride of Christ, dress to please your husband.
- f. Luke 8:27, 35 "Clothed, and in his right mind."

3. Honesty

- a. 2 Cor. 8:21 "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."
- b. Rom. 12:17b "...provide things honest in the sight of all men."
- c. Honest = good admirable, becoming, has also the ethical meaning of what is fair, right, honorable, of such conduct as deserves esteem. [VEDNT p.229]
- d. Honest = "free from deception; truthful, genuine, real, humble, plain, reputable, respectable, good worthy, creditable; marked by integrity; upright, frank, sincere [Web. p.399]
- e. Honest = ethical, upright
- f. Ill. Honest Abe -- "When Abraham Lincoln was in the grocery store business in his young manhood, he once discovered that he had charged a customer six cents too much on a bill of goods. That night after he closed his store, Lincoln walked three miles to the home of the person he had short-changed and returned the six cents."
- g. A pure heart will bring forth honest dealings with our fellowman!!

D. **Spiritual actions of a pure heart**

1. Sincerity - not hypocrisy
2. He will put God first - Col. 3:2 NKJV "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

3. But a person who is trying to Love Both God and the world is in conflict.
 - a. He is torn between two worlds
 - b. He is in constant distress and inner turmoil
4. 2 Tim. 1:5 "...unfeigned faith..." -- not pretending but genuine - real, sincere,
5. 1 Tim. 1:5 "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."
6. Ill. of Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11
 - a. When they made a liberal donation everything looked fine to men!!!
 - b. But God looked on the inside and he saw that their hearts were not pure -- they lied about what they gave!!
 - c. They were not pure in heart! They were not sincere - but were trying to make an impression. This was hypocritical!
7. A pure heart will lead one to obey God from the heart - Rm. 6:17 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

III. SEE GOD

- A. Shall see God
 1. They are in favor with God and enjoy His blessings
 2. Because they are pure in heart they are pleasing to God and they will dwell with Him

B. Two ways in which we can see God:

1. As a Christian

- a. We enter into a right relationship with God
- b. Jn. 3:3 "...except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- c. The kingdom is the church - Mt. 16:18-19
- d. To get into the kingdom or church one must be baptized into Christ - Acts 2:38, 47 - preceded by faith, repentance and confession.

2. In heaven

- a. The faithful Christian shall see God face to Face in heaven
- b. 1 Jn. 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."
- c. We will enjoy the presence of God here and hereafter
 - (1) In this life - when we are obedient to Him out of a pure heart we will be near to Him. Jas. 4:8a "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."
 - (2) We can see God now:
 - (a) In his works - Ps. 19:1ff
 - (b) In his people - Eph. 4:6
 - (c) In his revelation - Jn. 14:8,9
- d. But in eternity we shall see him face to face -- Rev. 22:4 "and they shall see his face;..."

- C. God did not say: "Blessed are the philosophers or the intellectual giants, for they shall see God.", but he said "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." The pure in heart have a privilege that the world does not have - they can see God.
- D. This naturally implies that the impure of heart do not see Him
1. They are blind to Him, His works, and His people
 2. What we see depends upon the kind of eyes we have!!
 3. The pure see those things that are pure, but the evil see those things that are evil. Tit. 1:15 "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."

CONCLUSION

1. Summary of the Sixth Beatitude
 - a. Specific
 - (1) The pure in heart
 - (2) Sincere - morally pure
 - b. Results
 - (1) They shall see God
 - (2) Pleasing to God - in favor with God.
 - c. Principle
 - (1) Purity
 - (2) Christians are the light of the world and the salt of the earth - Mt. 5:13,14
 - (3) Chaste, clean, just, good report
 - d. Application
 - (1) Purity in Conduct
 - (a) Life shows our purity of heart

(b) Do not live like the people of the world

(2) We will:

(a) Watch our tongue

(b) Dress to please God

(c) Be honest in all affairs

2. Happy are those people who are "pure in heart"
 - a. They enjoy the sunshine of God's love and approval
 - b. They enjoy living the life of hope
3. The pure in heart are those who are free from evil desires and purposes.
 - a. Spiritually - we are not hypocrites -- but genuine, sincere, Christians.
 - b. Ethically - we are not evil but righteous
4. Do you see God? You can if you live the pure life.
5. If you miss seeing God you have missed it all!!!
6. How can you have a pure heart?
 - a. The word of God is the only thing that can purify your heart!
 - b. 1 Pet. 1:22
 - c. It tells us how to eliminate sin and all the evils of loving sin.
 - d. This is pure living - living by His word
 - e. When we obey the gospel we become sons of God.
 - f. 1 Jn. 3:1-3