

## The Beatitudes

### Lesson 6

#### “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”

Matt. 5:8

#### Introduction.

1. Last week, in the conclusion of our study of the fifth beatitude, we very briefly introduced this sixth beatitude that teaches “the pure in heart” are blessed [happy] and “they shall see God.”
2. Today we will carefully examine this sixth beatitude and the blessing promised to “the pure in heart.”
3. **This beatitude also logically follows the other beatitudes.**
  - a. Only those who recognize their **spiritual poverty** will enjoy “the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:3).
  - b. Once a person realizes his or her spiritual poverty he will **mourn over his sins**, and if this leads to godly sorrow and repentance he will be comforted by God. (Matt. 5:4).
  - c. One’s spiritual poverty and godly sorrow leads **one to be meek** [gentle], that is, submissive to God and His Son. (Matt. 5:5).
  - d. The one who wants to please God by being submissive to Him will “**hunger and thirst for righteousness.**” (Matt. 5:6). He will not only be submissive, but he will have an intense desire to be right with God and do what pleases God.
  - e. Having been shown mercy by God and wishing to continue to receive God’s mercy, one will be merciful to others. (Matt. 5:7).
4. This brings us to the sixth beatitude emphasizing the importance and blessing of being pure in heart.
  - a. One who has received mercy wants to see God and be with God.
  - b. This is promised to those who are **pure in heart**.
  - c. **Those with impure hearts would be miserable in a place without sin.**

#### **MAT 5:8 "Blessed are the pure [clean] in heart, for they shall see God.**

- IEB - “People who have pure hearts are happy, because they will see God.”

#### 1. “pure in heart”

- a. The Greek word is “katharos” [kah **thah** rahs] meaning “pure, clean, unsoiled.”

1) This word is frequently translated “clean” in the New Testament. (Matt. 27:59; Lk. 11:40, 41).

Matt 27:59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a **clean** linen cloth,”

Luke 11:40 "You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?

Luke 11:41 "But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.

John 13:10 Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely **clean**; and you are **clean**, but not all {of you.}"

John 13:11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are **clean**."

2) It is also rendered “pure.” (Matt. 5:8; Rom. 14:20; 1 Tim. 1:5; 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2 Tim. 2:22; Tit. 1:5; Jas. 1:27; 1 Pet. 1:22).

b. **Note:** Jesus is talking about purity of the heart, not just an outward cleanliness. See Matt.23:25,26

Matt 23:25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **clean** the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.

Matt 23:26 "You blind Pharisee, first **clean** the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become **clean** also.

1) Something that is clean on the outside, but filthy, nasty on the inside is disgusting to all.

2) God is primarily concerned with one being pure on the inside.

2. This purity is expressed in our:

a. **Speech** (1 Tim. 4:12; Matt. 12:36-37).

1 Tim 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but {rather} **in speech**, conduct, love, faith {and} purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

Matt 12:36 "But I tell you that **every careless** word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Matt 12:37 "**For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.**"

b. **Thinking** (Prov. 23:7; Phil. 4:8).

Prov 23:7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is...”

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

c. **Obedience** - God requires loving obedience from those who wish to please Him now and in eternity. (1 Jn. 2:3-5).

1 John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2:4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1 John 2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

d. Purity of heart requires undivided dedication to God - God demands our all. (Matt. 22:37).

Matt 22:37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

### 3. “for they shall see God”

- a. No one has seen God in this world. (Jn. 1:18; 1 Jn. 4:12).

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained {Him.}

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

- 1) Men have seen God in human form. (Gen. 18:22; Exod. 33:20-23). This is called a theophany.

Gen 18:22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while **Abraham was still standing before the LORD**. “The men” were angels. (Gen. 19:1).

Ex 33:20 **But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"**

Ex 33:21 Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand {there} on the rock;

Ex 33:22 and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.

Ex 33:23 "Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

- 2) No one has seen God as He is.

- b. See Exod. 33:20; Jn. 4:24; Col.1:15; Matt. 16:17.

Ex 33:20 But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Matt 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal {this} to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

- c. One reason men cannot now see God is because He dwells “in unapproachable light. (1 Tim. 6:16).

- d. “The pure in heart” shall **see Him in the world to come**. (Rev. 21:4; 22:4).

Rev 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be {any} death; there will no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Rev 22:4 **they will see His face**, and His name {will be} on their foreheads.

### **Purity And The World Today**

1. Most of the world [the masses] have little use for purity.

- a. They pursue the desires of the flesh.

- b. Much of the world delights in immorality and impurities of all kinds.

- c. They meet the description of Psalm 52:3.

Ps 52:3 You love evil more than good, Falsehood more than speaking what is right. Selah.

## 2. This love of evil is not something new.

- a. The world in Noah's day was extremely wicked. (Gen. 6:5-7).

**Gen 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

Gen 6:6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Gen 6:7 The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them."

- b. The Israelites turned their backs on God and purity.

- 1) They did this when Moses was on the Mount receiving the 10 commandments and they were on their way to the promised land of Canaan.

- 2) Moses recorded their sinful conduct while he was on Mt. Sinai. (Exod. 32:1-6).

Ex 32:1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

Ex 32:2 Aaron said to them, "Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring {them} to me."

Ex 32:3 Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought {them} to Aaron.

Ex 32:4 He took {this} from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."

Ex 32:5 Now when Aaron saw {this,} he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow {shall be} a feast to the LORD."

Ex 32:6 So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. "Play" denote immoral behavior.

- c. Gentiles practiced every kind of abomination. (Rom. 1:18-31).

## The Wrath Of God

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

## "God Gave Them Over"

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be

dishonored among them.

Rom 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Rom 1:26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

Rom 1:27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

### **God Gave Them Over To A Depraved Mind**

Rom 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; {they are} gossips,

Rom 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

Rom 1:31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

### **Most People Today Make Light Of Purity**

1. Most people think little about lying unless you lie to them, but the Bible condemns it. (Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:25).

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its {evil} practices,

Eph 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE {of you} WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

2. Cursing and all kinds of vulgar language is nigh universal and difficult [perhaps impossible] not to be expose to it.

3. God's name is taken in vain by the majority who ignore Exodus 20:7.

Ex 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

a. Some do it by swearing falsely by God's name. (Lev. 19:12).

Lev 19:12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

b. Others curse God or use God's name in blasphemous, profane ways.

c. In the Jewish age blasphemers were stone to death.

d. In the Christian age blasphemers are not put to death, but will stand condemned by God without repentance.

4. Modestly is seldom practiced and there are countless definitions of it.

a. The world, as a whole, has no use for it.

b. Even Christians keep changing their definition of it to conform to culture.

c. Sin is often defined today by culture - not God's word.

5. Adultery, incest, bestiality, homosexuality are practiced by many and many who do not practice these things see little wrong with these practices.
6. Movies, books, television programs, the internet, etc are filled with impure things of all kinds.
7. An eye for eye mentality, violence, murder, thefts and countless other evils are practiced by the masses.

### **How To Keep Our Hearts Pure**

1. We need to **pray** that God will give us the strength to overcome temptations. (Psa. 19:14).

Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

2. We need to spend a lot of time reading and meditating on God's word. (Psa. 1:2; 119:97).

Psa 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Psa 119:97 O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

3. We need to assemble frequently with our brothers and sisters in Christ. (Heb. 10:24-25).

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another;} and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

- a. The assembly is so important to the spiritual life of Christians.
  - b. It is a time when we collectively praise our great God and Savior and build one another up in the faith.
  - c. Those who neglect or undermine the regular assembly of Christians are doing the work of the devil.
4. We need to be careful about close associations with those who do not love God and spiritual things. (Psa. 1:1).
    - a. Literally "who does not walk in the counsel of evil."
    - b. The one "blessed" does not participate or follow the bad example and advice of sinners.
    - c. Happy is the one who does not listen to scoffers who treat virtue and godliness with contempt.
  5. We must not over estimate our spiritual strength and remember the warning of Paul. (1 Cor. 15:33).

1 Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

- a. We must be careful not to be deceived by those who teach false doctrines such as denying the resurrection of the dead, the virgin birth, the Deity and miracles of Jesus, etc..
- b. We must be careful not to be deceived by those who would entice us to practice moral depravity, "the works of the flesh."
- c. We are to flee "fornication" (1 Cor. 6:18) and the other works of the flesh.

6. We need to spend more time serving God and others and not be consumed with entertainment.
7. This hymn needs to be on our hearts and lips.

### **"Purer in Heart, O God"**

1 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.	3 Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; That I Thy holy face one day may see: Keep me from secret sin, Reign Thou my soul within; Purer in heart, help me to be.
2 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.	

### **Conclusion**

1. May all of us, as imperfect as we are, strive for a pure heart.
2. All of us want to see God and be with Him and without purity of heart that will not become a reality.
3. Next week we will learn what it takes to be called “sons of God.”

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,  
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))