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| **SERIES** | THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS - Message Date: May 21 |
| **BIBLE** | Matthew 5:8; |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | #7: Blessed are the Pure in Heart |
| **OVERVIEW** | In a day and age when people are more preoccupied with their outward appearance and what others think about them, Jesus focuses on what really matters to God which is what is on the inside of us. Just as in Jesus' time, people today pursue happiness in their lives in many different ways and places, but true and lasting happiness can only be found as Jesus put it…*”happy are the pure in heart.”* This purity in heart reveals how as citizens of God’s Kingdom we must value what is in our hearts as more important than anything else. It is not good enough to clean up our lives on the outside without addressing the real heart of the matter – our hearts. If we want our lives to truly be transformed, we must start by addressing what goes on in our hearts. Purity of heart comes with a promise…” for they will see God.” |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **PURITY OF HEART IS ONE OF THE KEY VALUES FOR CITIZENS OF HIS KINGDOM**  ***8****“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God*.  **Pure =** clean, pure, free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt; free from every admixture of what is false, sincere genuine; blameless, innocent; unstained with the guilt of anything.  “Unmixed with any other matter…free from moral fault or guilt…containing nothing that does not properly belong” **– Webster’s Dictionary**  **WE MUST KNOW THE CONDITION OF OUR HEARTS BEFORE GOD**  **Jeremiah 17:9**  *9The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick;*  *who can understand it?*  Jesus spoke about the role of our hearts and why we must guard against it.  **Mark 7:21-23**  *21For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft,*[*m*](https://www.esv.org/Mt5.22%3BMt5.28%3BEx20.13-14%3BEx20.17)*murder, adultery, 22coveting, wickedness, deceit,*[*n*](https://www.esv.org/2Co12.21%3BGa5.19%3BEp4.19%3B2P2.7%3BJd4)*sensuality,*[*o*](https://www.esv.org/Mt6.23)*envy,*[*p*](https://www.esv.org/Ep4.31%3BCs3.8%3B1Tm6.4)*slander,*[*q*](https://www.esv.org/Lk1.51)*pride,*[*r*](https://www.esv.org/Ep5.17)*foolishness. 23*[*s*](https://www.esv.org/1Co6.9-10)*All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”*  **Matthew 15:17-20**  ***17****“Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?****18****But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.****19****For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.****20****These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”*  “the fundamental problem in American society and culture is that we attempt to solve human problems while neglecting the centrality of God in the life of the soul” **– John Piper**  **GOD WANTS US TO FOCUS AND PAY ATTENTION TO OUR HEARTS BECAUSE EVERYTHING ELSE IN LIFE ORIGINATES FROM IT**  **Proverbs 4:23**  *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*  **THE PRAYER AND LONGING OF EVERY FOLLOWER OF JESUS SHOULD BE THE PURITY OF OUR HEARTS.**  **Psalm 51:10**  *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me*  **Psalm 119:36-37**  ***36****Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.* ***37****Turn my eyes away from worthless things;  preserve my life according to your word.*    Rich Mullins said it best in his song My One Thing…  Everybody I know says they need just one thing  And what they really mean is that they need just one thing more  And everybody seems to think they've got it coming  Well I know that I don't deserve You  Still I want to love and serve You more and more  You're my one thing  Save me from those things that might distract me  Please take them away and purify my heart  I don't want to lose the eternal for the things that are passing  Cause what will I have when the world is gone  If it isn't for the love that goes on and on with  My one thing  You're my one thing  And the pure in heart shall see God  You're my one thing  You're my one thing  And the pure in heart shall see God  Who have I in Heaven but You Jesus?  And what better could I hope to find down here on earth?  I could cross the most distant reaches  Of this world, but I'd just be wasting my time  Cause I'm certain already, I'm sure I'd find  My one thing  You're my one thing  And the pure in heart shall see God  You're my one thing  You're my one thing  **THERE IS ONLY ONE REMEDY THAT CAN CLEANSE OUR HEARTS – NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS!**  **Hebrews 9:11-14**  ***11****But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.****12****He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30118b)*] eternal redemption.****13****The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.****14How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!***  **1 John 1:9**  ***9****If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*  The words of the old hymn written by Rev. Robert Lawry say it best…  What can wash away my sin?  Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  What can make me whole again?  Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  Refrain: O precious is the flow  that makes me white as snow;  no other fount I know;  nothing but the blood of Jesus.  For my pardon this I see:  nothing but the blood of Jesus.  For my cleansing this my plea:  nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]  Nothing can for sin atone:  nothing but the blood of Jesus.  Naught of good that I have done:  nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]  This is all my hope and peace:  nothing but the blood of Jesus.  This is all my righteousness:  nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain] |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  We can never truly understand God’s grace and mercy until we understand how sinful we are as human beings. This message can bring the reality of how we all need Jesus and His work on the Cross to be able to be pure in heart before a Holy God. Also for us to see the importance of |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  This is a great opportunity to preach the Gospel or Good News. Challenge people to begin. Also Connect and Grow. |