

Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: Christians, Despised by the World, but Super-Blessed by the Father, A Study of the Beatitudes Part Seven. From Matthew 5:3-9

November 18, 2018

Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Can you think of just one person who is truly “pure” in heart? Name just one person out of all the 7 billion alive today who you would consider pure of heart. That means that everything they do is for unselfish motives. Every act of kindness is done to bring glory to God and not for attention to themselves. That means that every good deed and every foster child they take in and every adoption is done for pure motives – and not to satisfy any personal needs that person may think that adoption or foster child might bring to them. That means that every person in the world from past to present cannot fulfill this beatitude and get to heaven to see God. So . . .

Context

Exegesis (no need)

Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (ESV)

Word study: Pure = katharos which means 1) clean such as in clean clothes that have been thoroughly washed and now there are no impurities 2) clean corn or wheat that has been sifted from chaff or an army having released the cowards and discontented soldiers leaving only an efficient fighting force and 3) of wine or milk undiluted with water or metals undiluted with impure alloys. Basis meaning then is this PURE = unmixed, unadulterated, unalloyed.

Our English word catharsis means a cleansing of and release of harmful emotions. In medicine a cathartic is an agent that cleanses a wound from infectious dirt or impurities.

Secondly the word for heart is Kardia and of course we get our English word cardiac from this word. A person who is having a cardiac arrest is having a heart attack. Now the Scripture indicates this as the source of decisional making, not feelings. Feelings come from the stomach and intestines according to Bible time thinking. James speaks of this in *James 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV) and 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. (ESV) and Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise*

the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (ESV)

- A double-minded person is:
 - A person who says they trust in God completely for every need but in their heart they believe that a steady job or career is the real ticket to security.
 - A person who says that trusting in God means speaking the truth at all times but believes in his heart that a prudent lie is sometimes necessary, or cheating on taxes, or fudging expense accounts, or wasting time at work.
 - A person who knows that God is always good and only gives us what is best for us but at the same time decides he must borrow \$40,000 to pay for a new boat or motorhome he cannot afford because he believes he knows more than God about what is best and good.
 - A person who says he trusts God to protect his reputation and values God’s esteem for him as a child of God but at the same time feels the necessity to tear other people down or other churches down or other businesses down in order to feel good about himself.
 - A pastor who says he trusts God for the future of the church he serves but stresses out when a member threatens to leave.
 - In the OT it was the Israelite who sacrificed to Yahweh on Passover but to Baal on that demon god’s holiday just to cover all the bases.

So in our context the basic meaning is this “Blessed are the people whose motives and choices are always unmixed for they shall see God”. Since no one ever has pure motives ever, then this must be an act of divine surgery where God has removed the heart that is always intent on evil and replaced it with a heart that is always intent on doing good.

Main point: Only those who have been born again from above by the power of the Holy Spirit are able to be motivated by a new nature that is genuinely unmixed and only desires to do good with no unselfish motives. These people are the only ones who will be allowed to enter the kingdom of God and come face to face with the welcoming King.

1. Single-minded believers are dedicated to serve the King not only with right motives but with right actions.
 - The Israelites were single-minded when they charged into the promised land against the will of the Lord and were soundly defeated. (Numbers 14)
 - Christians today can be single-minded to the Lord in the sense they want to convert everyone they meet but they fail to love them and speak kindly to them but instead try to cram down people’s throats the gospel message. Not good.
2. Single-minded believers will progressively eliminate the remnants of the flesh so that they will obey God with their whole heart. *1 Chronicles 29:19 Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made*

provision.” (ESV) but 1 Kings 11:3–4 He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. [4] For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. So: Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV) Hebrews 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (ESV)

3. Single-minded believers who feel they have been so tarnished with sin that they are destined to live forever in shame can find freedom from shame through the cross of Christ. *1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)*
4. Single-minded believers know that there is coming a day when nothing will distract our devotion to Christ. *Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV) Romans 5:2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)*
5. Single-minded believers must guard against false purity. False purity is the kind the Pharisees were famous for. *Mark 7:1–4 Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, [2] they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. [3] (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, [4] and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) (ESV)*
 - False purity today might include the famous “Don’t list” Don’t go to movies, don’t dance, don’t smoke, don’t chew, don’t show too much skin (how much skin is acceptable? Taken to the extreme good Christians should all wear burkas.) Don’t listen to the loud music with a strong beat (there really is such a thing as devil music) Don’t drink alcoholic beverages (yes getting drunk is still prohibited) don’t work on Sunday’s because it is the Sabbath, etc. etc.
6. Single-minded believers will constantly be striving to attain godly purity. *2 Corinthians 6:14–18 [14] Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? [15] What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? [16] What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, [18] and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” (ESV) 2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)*

Application

1. How does one get a pure heart if they don't feel they have one now? By faith. Acts 15:9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV) Our hearts are cleansed the moment we are saved. It's the flesh we battle with daily.
2. And, the continual transforming power of the word. Get in it. John 15:3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (ESV) Hebrews 4:12–13 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (ESV)