

The Beatitudes – The High Call of Purity (Week 6—Feb 24th)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Throughout this series we have encountered a calling like nothing this world has to offer – a high calling to be young men and women that look like the King we represent. It is a calling to see beyond ourselves; to keep pushing through the crowd of distractions so that we can finally run to God and see Him for who He truly is and ourselves for who He has made us to be.

I Peter 1:15-16, Psalm 24:3, 4 – What does this calling look like and require?

God is holy, set apart, unique, one-of-a kind, completely separate from all that exists. He is distinct from His creation and therefore untainted by the world’s sin; He is morally pure. He calls us to be like Him. He makes us holy and then we respond in holiness. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“.....pure *in heart*....”? Matthew Henry says that this is the most comprehensive character of the blessed. ...inwardly pure. “The heart must be pure, in opposition to mixture, an honest heart that aims well.”

Discover purity in these verses and write down the who, what and why of what you find:

Psalm 24:4,5

1 Timothy 4:12

2 Timothy 2:22

1 Peter 2:9

“for they shall see God”

“The more clearly we see God, the more intimately we *know* Him, and the more passionately we *love* Him, the more completely we will be changed into His likeness.”#1

Read 1 John 3:1-3 and 2 Corinthians 3:18

What is it that your heart longs for? Love, acceptance, truth, strength, beauty, delight, adventure? These we find at their best and most complete in Him! God is the source of all we desire and seeking Him is their only true fulfillment.

Paul Thigpen, a Discipleship Journal author told this true story:

“My five year-old, Lydia, had been in bed an hour when I passed by the half-open door of her darkened room. She was weeping uncontrollably. ‘Honey, what’s wrong?’ I asked, sitting on the edge of her bed and gently taking her hand. ‘Did you have a bad dream?’ Lydia tried to respond, but tears choked her words. I stroked her hair to soothe her. After a moment, she cried in little-girl anguish, ‘Oh Daddy! I...I *just want to see God!*’ Her words startled me. Now it was my turn to weep. I drew her close and said, ‘Darling, do you know why you want to see God so much? Because that’s the reason He made you. You were created to see God. And if you love Him with all your heart, one day you will see God face to face. That’s His promise.’ Comforted, she nodded her head, lay back down, and was soon fast asleep....In the depths of her five-year-old soul, she had realized intuitively what theologians over the centuries have carefully reasoned out: In our heart of hearts, we long above all things to see God face to face.”

What does your heart long for?

Are you satisfied with what this world has to offer – or do you crave God Himself?

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.”
Philippians 1:9-11