

Refuge City Church — February 25, 2024
Gospel of Matthew: “Get clean!” (Matthew 5:8)

Introduction

- We continue our study through the Sermon on the Mount, and these specific teachings of Jesus called ‘beatitudes’.
- Something to think about...
 - Why didn’t Jesus provide specific examples as to how to use these blessings?
 - The situation or circumstance does not/should not matter.
 - This is who we are to be at all times! These qualities should define the very essence of our character.

[verse 8] “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

- “Pure” = clean; single-minded devotion
 - **Psalm 51:10**, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”
 - What is the greatest commandment? [**Deuteronomy 6:5**, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”]
 - **QUOTE**: “Christ was dealing with men’s spirits, with their inner and spiritual nature...and this one strikes the very center of the target as he says, not ‘Blessed are the pure in language, or the pure in action,’ much less ‘Blessed are the pure in ceremonies, or in [clothing], or in food;’ but ‘Blessed are the pure *in heart*.’” [Charles Spurgeon]
 - **Psalm 24:1-5**, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? *He who has clean hands and a pure heart*, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”
- **Bear in mind**: Religious practice for the sake of religious practice does not please the Lord.
 - What is religious practice [going to church, praying, reading our bible; appearing to be religious without a change of heart]
 - If all we do is check the box and do not allow God to affect our life, what is the point?
 - Those who continue to think this way, without fully surrendering to Jesus, are expecting Jesus to give them a pass into heaven because they were a good person [by who’s standards??].
 - This is the very problem God has with “religiosity”.
 - **Isaiah 1:16-17**, “Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.”
 - If you’re not responding to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, then you are not pursuing a life of purity.

- **Proverbs 22:11**, “He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.”
- Guess what happens when you hunger and thirst for righteousness?? You’ll pursue purity at the same time!
 - True righteousness that God gives, will only be given to those of a pure heart.
 - What fellowship does light have with darkness? [2 Corinthians 6:14]
 - **Hosea 10:12 NLT**, “Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and *shower righteousness upon you.*”

Conclusion

- “Blessed are the pure in heart, *for they shall see God.*”
 - In one sense, we will have a renewed vision and see God in all aspects of life here and now.
 - **Hebrews 12:14**, “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”
 - Wouldn’t that help you make better decisions?!
 - Wouldn’t that help others get a glimpse of who God is thru you?!
 - In another sense, we will see God face to face in glory.
 - **1 John 3:2-3**, “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”
- **John 14:6-7**, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”
 - What is it to be merciful? Look to Jesus.
 - What is it to be pure in heart? Look to Jesus.