

Christ's Beatitudes

The Blessed Pure

Part Examined

When the Lord Jesus speaks of the heart, he does not mean the physical organ that pumps oxygen and blood to all the parts of the body, nor simply our feelings. The heart describes the core and center of our being that governs our thoughts, desires, motives, ambitions, affections, will, words, actions and emotions. Thomas Manton: "there is nothing in the life but what was first in the heart." Matthew Henry: "all the actions of life flow from the heart." This is what true religion has to do with: the heart. It is not enough to be concerned with outward actions. The Lord looketh at the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). He searches the heart (1 Chron. 28:9).

Purity Described

Let me use three words to describe what the Lord Jesus means.

1. **Purity**: it is a word to describe something which is clean (Matt. 27:59; 23:25). This is our problem (Prov. 20:9; 1 John 1:8; Job 14:4). A.W. Pink: "One of the most conclusive evidences that we do possess a pure heart is to be conscious of and burdened with the impurity which still indwells."
2. **Sincerity**: it is a word that also describes something unmixed (e.g. pure gold). It is the opposite of hypocrisy (Tit. 1:16). We need sincerity (Ps. 51:6). Thomas Watson: "God loves a broken heart, but not a divided heart." What reason we have to pray: "Unite my heart to fear thy name" (Ps. 86:11).
3. **Integrity**: this is what the Bible calls holiness (2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14). John Owen: "I do not understand how a man can be a true believer unto whom sin is not the greatest burden, sorrow, and trouble."

Power Needed

The only way to have a pure heart is to realize you have an impure heart, and this should lead us to seek the power and grace of God in order that He would cleanse us (Ez. 36:25; Zech. 13:1). This He can do to the vilest soul (Ps. 51:7,10) through His blood and Spirit. What does He use to purify His people?

1. the word of God (Ps. 119:8; Eph. 5:26; Jn. 17:17)
2. the Spirit of God (1 Pet. 1:22)
3. the faith in God (Acts 15:9)

Promised Attached

True, no man hath seen God at any time (Jn 1:18), and yet the Lord wants to reveal Himself through His Son, revealing something of His glory, presence and love so that we come to...

1. See God at conversion (Jer. 29:13; Jn. 14:9),
2. See God in creation (Neh. 9:6),
3. See God in providence (Gen. 50:20),
4. See God in prayer (Ps. 145:18),
5. See God in trials and adversity (Heb. 11:27). Thomas Brooks: "A gracious soul may look through the darkest cloud and see God smiling on him."
6. See God in righteousness (1 Cor. 13:12; Ps. 17:15; 1 John 3:2; Jn 17:24).