

“THE KEYS TO A BLESSED LIFE”

Big Idea . . . Part 7: Blessed are the PURE IN HEART

Matt. 5:8

INTRO: When read this 6th Beatitude there is a sense of both awe and confusion. “Awe” at the possibility of seeing God. “Confusion” as to what it means. Much uncertainty among commentators. Jesus wants us to see God! One of the great statements of the Bible. We know one day in the future as believers we will see Him face to face. Are there present applications?

ORDER: Beatitudes 1-3 are the ROOTS (means to a blessed life: recognize (v.3), repent (v.4), submit (v.5). “That’s me!” is our response. B #4 is the LIFE (v.6—relentless pursuit of Him and His will) Again, hopefully cry, “That’s Me!” Beatitudes 5-7 are the FRUIT: Practicing mercy (v.7). Next v.8 “...pure in heart... see God.” Response? “That’s *not* me; it’s impossible3!” Jesus makes both possible – What a Savior! Let’s examine it. Barclay writes, “Here is a B., which demands that every man who reads it should stop, and think, and examine himself. This one demands from us the most exacting self-examination.”

I. DEFINED: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PURE IN HEART?

- A. Does NOT mean: sinless, perfect, or no mistakes or no one qualifies
- B. DOES mean a heart that is PURE
Best term in today’s vocabulary is INTEGRITY (blameless) – not accusable. *God is more interested in the direction of our heart than in the sins we commit!* Always internal heart attitude over external actions. Bible has many examples of people who were sinful, imperfect, made mistakes, but lived with integrity (purity of heart): David, Moses, Noah, Abraham, Paul, etc. All flawed.
- C. Three (3) words help describe:
 - 1. *Whole* (undivided) – Math “integer” is whole number. Integrated life not segregated. No veneer. Consistency. Undivided.
 - 2. *Authentic* (real, genuine) not fake, phony, imposter. You are without hypocrisy (wear mask at times)
 - 3. *Unmixed Motivations* - Integrity not only does what’s right in the right way and for the right reason. Many put image over integrity and reputation over character.

II. BLESSINGS FROM LIFE OF INTEGRITY

- A. *Personal Confidence and Stability* (Pro. 10:9; 11:3) – no lies to recall. Integrity fosters security.
- B. *Prolonged Legacy* – Inheritance is about stuff. Legacy is about life of integrity (Pro. 20:7). Ex: Job lost it all and never lost integrity (8:5-7). Never too late to start. More valuable than wealth inheritance (Pro. 22:21; 28:6).

C. *Pleases God* – 1 Chron. 29:17

D. *Promised Rewards in Eternity* (Matt. 25:21). esp. is the “little” things (gentle, kind, . . .). All seen and rewarded.

III. RESULTS OF LIVING PURE IN HEART (“...they shall see God”).

- A. *Future aspect (not yet)* – 1 Jn. 3:2-3; Rev. 21:3; 22:4
- B. *Present aspect* - When we live with integrity (purity of heart) we see God – get closer to Him, feel His presence, know His power and purpose, live in His pardon and peace. When we worship. See Ps. 15:1-5 “Who gets close to God?” Marks . . .

IV. PRACTICAL CHECKLIST FOR PRACTICING INTEGRITY

- A. *Keeping your Promises* (verbal integrity). Keep your word. Be count-on-able. Minimize promises or lose credibility. Ps. 15:4; Pro. 25:14
- B. *Paying your bills* (financial integrity). How we spend our money tests our integrity. Ps. 37:21; Rom. 13:6-7 (taxes)
- C. *Refusing to Gossip* (relational integrity). Avoid fake flattery. Don’t talk behind backs. Don’t even listen to it. Keep secrets? Pro. 11:13
- D. *Faithfully Giving* – Money, time, energy, service, goods. Trust Him to supply (Ph. 4:19). Giving is a heart issue first (Matt. 6:19-21).
- E. *Doing your best Work* (vocational integrity). Work hard all the time? Just when boss around? Come in late? etc. Pro. 18:9; Eph. 6:6; Col. 3:22-23.
- F. *Being Real with others* (personal integrity). Authenticity is so important (warts and all). Always be the same person no matter where you are and who with. God doesn’t expect you to be sinless, perfect, make no mistakes – not possible (2 Cor. 4:2). – [“How can we live an open book (integrity) life?”] Two suggestions:
 - 1. *Care more about God’s approval than others.*
 - 2. *Own up to where integrity is lacking* – examined 6 areas . . . Where are you lacking? Confessing bad integrity is first step to good integrity. God never expects sinlessness, perfection, no mistakes, BUT He does expect integrity (Pure of heart) Ps. 139:23-24 . . .

Direction of heart is what matters most. I’m not perfect. I don’t always... but I want to . . . God is more interested in our heart than our sins.

CONC: Matt. 5:8 . . . impossible? On our own Yes, but with Jesus NO.