

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

MATTHEW 5:8

Text: Matthew 5:8

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⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Introduction:

The word heart appears some 833 times in the Bible. The plural form of the word appears 113.

It is the place where real commitments are made. It is what really defines who and what you are and it is the part of you that is continually under the scrutiny and searching eyes of the Lord.

2 Chron. 16:9

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

It is the source of all our conflict and struggles.

Genesis 6:5

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Matthew 15:19

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Jeremiah 17:9-10

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

The Bible puts a great emphasis on the heart.

No doubt the Lord included this sixth Beatitude, as well as other remarks because of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

The most common charge leveled against the Pharisees by the Lord was that they had a keen interest in the outside of the pots and platters, but they blatantly ignored the inside.

Matthew 23:28

28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

When the Lord said, "Blessed are the pure in heart", He was pronouncing blessedness on those who are pure at the very center of their being, at the very source of their every activity, not those who are merely pure on the surface.

May we keep in mind that "the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

God always begins with the heart and then works outward.

We are reminded to keep or guard our hearts in Proverbs.

Proverbs 4:20-27

²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. ²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. ²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. ²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. ²⁴ Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. ²⁵ Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. ²⁶ Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all

thy ways be established. ²⁷ Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

In other words, guard your heart above all else for it impacts everything you do.” It is not talking about the physical organ of the heart but is referring to the core of an individual his intellect, emotions, and will.

Notice:

1. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HEART

A. Guarding your heart is more important than anything else you do.

B. Your physical heart determines how and what your body can or cannot do. Your spiritual heart will determine what you will do spiritually.

C. You are what your heart is:

Proverbs 23:7

⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Proverbs 23:19

¹⁹ Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Matthew 15:17-19

¹⁷ Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? ¹⁸ But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. ¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2. THE ATTACK OF THE HEART

We have an enemy who desires to devour you, and will do anything that he can to accomplish his goal.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Acts 5:3

³ But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

John 13:2

² And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Luke 22:31

³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

3. THE CONDITIONS OF THE HEART

As we have seen the physical heart will determine what we do physically and our spiritual heart will determine what we will do spiritually speaking. There are conditions of the heart that we must be aware of.

Note:

A. Hardening of the Arteries (Cold and Indifferent)

Hebrews 4:7

⁷Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Is the result of not becoming poor in spirit.

Illustration:

I heard the story of a young man who had enrolled in seminary. He found an apartment room next to a railroad crossing. He wondered why the apartment rent was so cheap—and found out the first night. A train came through in the middle of the night, blasting its horn. It didn't just wake him up, but also nearly gave him a heart attack! Every night when the train came through, it blew the horn. At first he thought about changing apartments, but then he started getting used to the nightly awakenings. He would wake up for a few seconds, and then go right back to sleep. Eventually he got where the train horn didn't even wake him up. He hardened his heart to the train and couldn't hear it any more.

The same hardening process occurs when God speaks to our hearts and we don't respond. Eventually, we stop hearing His voice because our hearts have become hard.

B. Heart Murmur (Complaining)

Philippians 2:14

¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

In Exodus 16 the children of Israel murmured against God.

Their grumbling was the result of a lack of vision and faith - they saw only death as the prospect (v.3)

Grumbling against God's appointed leaders was grumbling against God (v.2, 8)

Exodus 16:2-8

² And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

³ And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

⁴ Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out

and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. ⁵ And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. ⁶ And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: ⁷ And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? ⁸ And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.

C. Congestive Heart Failure (Complacency)

Congestive heart failure is a life-threatening condition in which the heart loses its ability to pump enough blood to the rest of the body. With heart failure, many organs don't receive enough oxygen and nutrients, which damages them and reduces their ability to function properly.

Ephesians 4:16

¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

1 Corinthians 12:26

²⁶ And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

D. Hypertension (Anger and Bitterness)

Ephesians 4:31-32

³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

E. Heart Blockage (Stubbornness)

Psalms 81:11-12

¹¹ But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. ¹² So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

F. Enlarged Heart (Pride & A Haughty Spirit)

Proverbs 28:25

²⁵ He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

Proverbs 16:18

¹⁸ Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:5

⁵ Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Close:

The heart is to be guarded at all cost. In armed warfare the vital part of the body is always protected. In our Christian realm that is always the heart. The reason we have so many casualties spiritually is because the heart is ignored.

One of the greatest fallacies of modern day thinking is that all we need to do to change the way people are is to change their environment. That's not true. Where was it that the first man fell? It was in Paradise, a perfect environment.

Man's problem lies at the very center of his being and will not be solved by changing his environment or

developing his social skills or increasing his knowledge.

Man's need is for a new heart and then to allow the peace of God keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The word "Keep" means "to stand guard over". When Paul wrote these very words, he had a Roman guard on either side of him. They were "standing guard" over the man of God. Paul says that God's peace is like a guard that protects the heart from wrong feelings and the mind from wrong thoughts! I don't know about you, but I need that kind of help all the time!