



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

March 26th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:8

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

The heart in the Bible is not so much focused on the beating muscle that propels blood around our bodies. It speaks more about the core of one's very self. The depth of our very being. It seems to refer to the mind, emotion and will.

For instance:

“Why are you thinking evil things in your hearts?” Matt 9:4

“your heart will rejoice...” John 16:2

“they were cut to the heart..... and asked what shall we do?” Acts 2:37

What do you think being pure in heart might mean?

The Bible often describes the miserable state of the human heart – fallen, broken, rebellious, treacherous and so on. Yet here, we are called to be pure of heart. Carefully re-read Matthew 5:3-7. Note the emphasis on the ‘internal’ aspects of discipleship. How might these shed light on what ‘pure in heart’ might mean?

The Pharisees are lambasted by Jesus in Matthew 23 because their religious rituals were a cover for their vile hearts and motives. Our motives matter to God. How therefore might 1 Peter 4:8 “above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins” help us understand our verse today?

As being pure in heart, that is - a life directed by a love for God and others, will never be perfected in this life we nonetheless with His help seek a continual transformation of our motives and actions. We take great comfort in our standing in the grace of the cross, but we don't let that excuse allowing the Holy Spirit to shape our inner being. As you reflect on your life and consider phrase ‘pure in heart’, what would be one area of your life where you need to grow in purity in heart?

“For they will see God”. Look up 1 Corinthians 13:12. How does this verse explain our experience in this world and the next?

Note that mirrors in the New Testament were nothing like we have today. *Mirrors in Bible times were generally made of metal that was highly polished—usually bronze, but possibly also copper, silver, gold, or polished obsidian (black volcanic glass)*

How does the second part of today’s verse motivate us as we live in this world?