

## 20250330 The Pure in Heart – Duane

### Matthew 5:8

In the Beatitudes, Jesus lays out principles that touch every aspect of our lives. The word "blessed" means more than fleeting happiness—it signifies a deep, inner joy and spiritual fulfilment that transcends circumstances. When Jesus says, ***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God,"*** He offers a roadmap to a personal encounter with God. This roadmap is heart purity.

Jesus emphasises that the condition of our heart is paramount. As Christians, our priority is to maintain a right heart attitude toward God and others. We might deceive people by pretending our relationship with God is strong when it isn't, but God sees beyond appearances. In 1 Samuel 16:7, we read, ***"The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*** Proverbs 21:2 adds, ***"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts."*** It is clear God looks past our outward behaviour and appearance to the real issue – the condition of the heart. Proverbs 4:23 instructs, ***"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."***

In Bible times people thought of the heart as the very centre of a person. What you thought, how you felt, your motivations, impulses and passions all flowed from your heart - the very core of your being. And Jesus declares, ***'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God'***

As we examine this beatitude, I want us to look at the following:

1. Purity's Meaning
2. Purity's Process
3. Purity's Promise

### 1. Purity's Meaning

What does Jesus mean by "pure"? The Greek word "katharos" translates to cleansed, free from impurity, holy, and spotless. At its core, it suggests single-mindedness—an undivided devotion to God. The pure in heart have clarified values and motives, free of hidden agendas

or self-interest. Scottish scholar *William Barclay* says it this way: **"Blessed is the man whose motive is always entirely unmixed, for that man shall see God."**

In Matthew 22:36-38, a lawyer asks Jesus, ***"Which is the great commandment in the law?"*** ***Jesus replies, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment."*** A pure heart loves God wholly. Yet, when we examine our motives, we often fall short. Selfishness creeps in, dividing our loyalty. A divided heart tries to serve both God and self, but Jesus calls us to single-minded devotion.

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus got to the heart of our problem when He said to His disciples, ***'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.'*** When we seek other things other than the Kingdom of God, our heart becomes divided and a divided heart causes instability in our lives and sometimes the lives of others. But blessed are the pure, the single-minded people, those who love the Lord their God with all their heart, all their soul and all their strength, those that don't have mixed motives, for they shall see God.

The best example of a pure, single minded heart is found in the life of Jesus. He loved the Lord God with all His heart, soul and mind and was set on seeking the Kingdom of God doing the will of God.

Listen to Him praying in the Garden of Gethsemane just before he was crucified, ***"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*** (Matthew 26:39, NKJV).

Blessed are the pure in heart; blessed are the single minded, those who love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul and mind.

## **2. Purity's Process**

Becoming pure in heart is a process, not an instant transformation. It begins with inviting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Through His death and resurrection, we gain victory over sin. Jeremiah 17:9-10 declares, ***"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked;***

***who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart.***" In our own strength, we cannot change our hearts, but Jesus can. Ezekiel 11:19 promises, ***"I will take away your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."*** This new heart marks the start of purity's journey.

Consider Paul's experience. In Acts 9, he encounters the risen Christ, beginning his transformation. Yet, in Romans 7:18-19, he confesses, ***"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice."*** Paul wrestles with the tension between his flesh and God's Spirit. In desperation, he cries, ***"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"*** Then he answers, ***"I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!"*** (Romans 7:24-25).

This struggle is familiar. The flesh—our self-centred desires—battles the Spirit. When we let the flesh dominate, our heart divides, and we become double-minded. But when we submit to God's Spirit, the flesh's desires weaken, and we grow in purity.

But it's a process, it just doesn't instantly happen when we receive Jesus as Saviour. I'm sure most of us have or are going through this struggle, we find ourselves doing that which we don't want to do and that which we want to do we don't.

May our prayer and heart's desire be the same as David in Psalm 51:10, ***"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."*** In Psalm 139:23-24, he adds, ***"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."***

### 3. Purity's Promise

Finally, Jesus offers an amazing promise: ***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."*** Psalm 24:3-4 asks, ***"Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart."*** Purity in action (hands) and intent (heart) unlocks intimacy with God. Think of a radio: if God's frequency is 98.3 FM and we're tuned to 98.7, we miss the signal. A pure heart aligns us with God, granting glimpses of His glory.

Moses experienced this. Exodus 33:11 says, "***The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.***" After communing with God on Mount Sinai, "the skin of his face shone" (Exodus 34:29). His encounters transformed him visibly.

The more we allow God to work in our lives the more we will see Him. God reserves intimate fellowship with Himself to those whose hearts are unmixed in their devotion to Him. The pure in heart shall see God.

### **Conclusion**

This morning, we have explored purity's meaning: a single-minded devotion to God, loving Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. We've seen purity's process: it starts with receiving Christ and progresses as we die to self and yield to His Spirit. Finally, we've embraced purity's promise: the pure in heart will see God, enjoying deeper revelation and intimacy with Him. The journey to heart purity is challenging but rewarding. As we seek God first, He refines us, drawing us closer to His presence.