Beatitudes Series "Blessed Are the Pure In Heart" Dr. Janet Cook, Senior Pastor May 21, 2017

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Matthew 15:8-9 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

"The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart." Oswald J Smith

God is Concerned with the Heart.

Matthew 15:18-19 "So Jesus said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

What it means to be "Pure in Heart"

Psalm 24:3-5 "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation."

• A pure heart is truthful and free from deceitfulness.

"...Men who won't cheat and Women who won't seduce" Psalm 24:4b (MSG).

James 4:8 "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

James 4:4-5 "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?'"

The basic meaning of the Greek Word for "Pure" is unmixed and unadulterated.

"Blessed is the man whose motives are always entirely unmixed, for that man shall see God." William Barclay

Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.""

• Purity of heart is no deception, no double-mindedness, no divided allegiance.

"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands" Psalm 119:9-10 (NIV).

• Pursue God with single mind and desire.

What does it mean to see God?

"It is easy to say 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God,' for only the pure in heart want to see God." C.S. Lewis

"It is one of the simple facts of life that we see only what we are able to see; and that is true not only in the physical sense; it is also true in every other possible sense." William Barclay

To see God is to see the Kingdom of God.

John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.""

Romans 14:17 "...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

To see God is to be admitted into His presence.

"Pharaoh said to Moses, 'Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die" Exodus 10:28 (NIV).

Psalm 16:11 "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Purity is a prerequisite for seeing God.

David prayed in Psalm 51:10-12, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit."

We must look to Christ to be Purified.

"...who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works" Titus 2:14 (ASV).

- We cannot manufacture this; God must do it for us.
- Acts 15:9 says "God purified their hearts by faith."
- Purity of heart and victory over sin will be found only in Jesus Christ!