

September 9th, 2018
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Heavenly Happy
Sermon #7 Title: Only-ness of Heart
Sermon #7 Text: (Matthew 5:8)

We are studying Heavenly Happiness, and there will be no greater happiness than the day that our faith has become sight, our doubts and disabilities have disappeared, and there is no more fog between the saint and the Savior. – That will be a Happy Day.

- But I want to tell you this. That while that will be a Happy day, the Lord provides us a way to borrow tomorrows glory, and bring the sunlight of future into the storm clouds of today, and begin tasting that happiness.

This morning we come to the 6th Beatitude that Jesus proclaimed. Understanding that He knows what will make you happy, this is one of those things. Furthermore it is another way of saying the only thing that is required to enjoy Happiness of Heaven.

- In fact, I don't know if I'm making up a new word, or just using one no one else ever has, but we are entitling the sermon today the "Only-ness" of the Heart.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

*Note – As we have done with each of these statements we do again this morning, and we have to ask what Jesus meant when He proclaimed this. What is He talking about?

- The First thing we look to understand is the Principle of Purity.

I. The Principle of Purity – "Blessed are the pure in heart." What is He speaking of? We see the principle of purity in two ways.

A. Defined by the Word

1.) It is the Greek word "Katharos".

a.) It means to "cleanse" or to "be cleansed."

b.) It's root meaning is where we get our English word "Catharsis" from. – the word that means to "purge our emotions, or emotional tensions."
- a release of emotional toxins and tensions. –

2.) Realize 1.) what it does not mean.

- It does not mean a heart that has NEVER been unclean.
- It does not mean a heart that has never been filled with toxins and tensions and turmoils.

*Note – Sometimes people who are looking for hope and help come to that verse and say "well that leaves me out...I certainly don't have a pure heart." – That's not what Jesus is speaking of at all.

3.) Realize 2.) What it does mean...

- The "Katharos" is the idea of something being in its "undiluted," "unmixed" form.
- Pure water, is water that has nothing else in it. (All of the other substances have been removed.)

*Note – The word picture given is that something is in its "Only-ness" state. Singleness. Oneness.

If you have a bucket of pure water, the only thing in that bucket is water. – There is no minerals, no microbes, no tag-a-longs . . . just water. – It is in its “Only-ness” state.

- Now I said that just to say – that is the Word, and word picture that he uses to teach this principle of purity. – it is the word that means essentially “Oneness”

B. Displayed in the Word – Let me give you a couple of examples in the Bible that picture this principle.

1.) Matthew 6:24; and Luke 6:16 – Jesus said – “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

*note – Now those people that Jesus was speaking to who had that working knowledge of the Old Testament should have already heard this principle from the prophets.

1st Kings 18:21 – “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”

Matthew 4:10 – When Jesus rebuked Satan He made it crystal clear saying – “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

*Note – Among the many others, let me just give you one more for good measure – James 4:8 - the half-brother of our Lord said, “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

- When James wrote, he said that it is the “double minded” that need to be “purified.”

- the mixed, are to become unmixed

(*Note – there is another New Testament word or concept that serves as the twin brother to the principle of purity, and that is the word and concept of being “holy.”

- to become “consecrated,” “separated,” “dedicated” for the sole use of God

- this is the aspect that many of you have heard me say before about being “earmarked” – Designated.

- to become pure, or undiluted, is the twin brother of becoming holy and undistracted.

- Now that’s the principle that Jesus is speaking of.

II. The Place of Purity – “in heart”

*Note – Now this far beyond new to the people. What Jesus was proclaimed was not a New Word from God, but it was a Fresh reminder to the people.

- The Old Testament is replete with instructions, illustrations, and illuminations citing the fact that the Lord deals with the inside of man, before He deals with the outside of man.

- Write these references down –

Psalm 15:1-2 - David penned this song, and the first two verses he teaches the people to sing, “*LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.*”

Psalm 24:3-4 – David wrote the same thing, in a different way, in a different psalm, that all who would sing what he wrote, would come awake when Jesus spoke it – He said, - “*Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*”

Psalm 73:1 – Asaph the hymn writer wrote – “*Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.*”

*Note – and we could go on, but we won’t – But notice two things about the place Jesus looks for purity.

A. Inward Root

- 1.) “heart” – kardiah - we get our word, “cardiology”
 - the middle, central, the place from which your will, thoughts, and feelings emanate from.
- 2.) It is that central part of you that is to be “unmixed” – “undiluted, and undistracted.”
 - a.) Not doubleminded as mentioned by James.
 - b.) Not divided loyalties as mentioned by the fact that no man can serve two masters.
 - c.) Not dirtied by desiring the things of the world.

*Note – Here is the beauty of the Word of God. God doesn’t just direct us to have a pure heart, He instructs us on having a pure heart.

- Write these two references down – they are both sides of the same coin that constructs purity in the heart.

Matthew 22:37 – “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” – that’s a pure heart!

1st John 2:15-16 – “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” – that’s a pure heart!

- The Lord tells us “What to Love” and “What Not to Love” – it is a heart that only beats for Him.

*Note – Now back to the ranch – to the crowd before Jesus as he is preaching, and would continue throughout His ministry, this was the folly of the Pharisees. This was what was rotten about the religious leaders of that day.

- We said last week that Mercy was Missing from the Ministry... the Reason was the Perversion in their Heart.

(Realize this – Jesus never condemned the religious leaders for trying to “microscopically” keeping the law. He condemned them for them “hypocritically” keeping the law.

- What was on the Outside, lied about what was on the Inside.

Matthew 23:25-28 – Listen intently to the Lord’s rebuke of the Pharisees – “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

- Their outward “righteousness” was an “inward lie” – and the problem was many of them knew that...

They used the truth deceitfully....

- they were ceremonial
- they were self-righteous
- they were “box-checkers”

Their lips were with the Lord, but their heart was far from Him!

Now here is the issue – it's not what your MOUTH says about the Lord, but what how your HEART lives

The place of purity is the INWARD ROOT of your life.

After that – when the inward root is as it should be, the outward fruit will follow.

B. Outward Fruit

1.) Proverbs 4:23 – “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

2.) Matthew 12:35 – “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”

What's in the well comes up in the bucket.

(But now preacher – if someone is rotten in the inside and shiny on the outside doesn't that mean they have good fruit anyway – When someone is rotten on the inside and shiny on the outside, that shiny on the outside is a lie... - that's the fruit. When the fruit you see is false fruit, when the good you see is a lie, it doesn't count as good.)

Now come back to the text – the Lord Jesus said it big, straight and plain that the purity He is talking about it not Outward, but Inward.

III. The Promise of Purity – “shall see God.” – Seeing God is the pinnacle privilege of the human possibility. – This is the promise to those who are “only hearted” toward the Lord. – They shall see Him.

- this was one thing that the Pharisees continually held over the heads of the people. – God wouldn't even “hear” you sinners, much less, let you see Him, or even see His truth.

- Jesus said, most certainly – there are those who “shall see God.”

A. Spiritually – “they will see God Spiritually.”

1.) Jesus said, “except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven.” –

Meaning he is blind to it, till he is born into it.

2.) They will have the light of Spiritual understanding.

Deuteronomy 4:29 – “But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”

Jeremiah 29:13 – “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Psalms 18:26 – “to the pure, thou wilt shew thyself pure...”

Here is one of my favorites – 1st Corinthians 2:9-10 – “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

- There is spiritual sight into the truth of the Kingdom of God, into the Word and work of God, when there is a heart that is saturated with “only-ness” for the Lord.

B. Visibly – the word here for “see” is the word “optomomai” – to gaze with the eyes.

1.) There will be physical fruition of the spiritual reality for those whose heart is unmixed toward the Lord.

*Note – The people before Jesus would have been reminded of Job, who was the epitome of the undiluted, and undistracted heart.

Job 19:25-27 probably the most famous verses in that ancient book.

- “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”

For all of time, because of sin, the sight of the infinite, holy, and righteous God has been withheld from the finite, corrupt, and depraved man.

- In Exodus 33:20 – the Lord said to Moses, “for no man shall see me and live.”

- men have withheld their faith demanding “sight”
- God has withheld the sight of Him demanding “faith”

But the promise to those who have come to Christ Jesus in repenting faith, they will physically live forever, and do what no mortal can do in this fallen flesh, which will be to see the God we’ve been trusting...

- We will see the God that loved us and sent us His Son
- We will see the God that spoke the creation into existence
- We will see the God that spoke the Bible in our hands

- We will see the God that Satan has hated from eternity past

- We will see the God that we have been believing...

What a Promise:

Conclusion: - But we must conclude with this.

We said in the beginning that the twin brother of purity is holiness. – “Only-ness, and Holiness.” Unmixed, Undiluted, and Undistracted.

- Jesus said, “THEY SHALL SEE GOD.”

- But now don’t get the idea that they are just one of some who will get to see God . . . they are the ONLY ones who will get to see God.

- Hebrews 12:14 – “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:”

- Those with pure hearts – Shall See God

- Those without pure hearts – Shall NOT See God.