

We've been teaching the beatitudes in our home group for the past couple of months. The beatitudes are the foundation of what Jesus taught. If you neglect them you will not be able to walk in all that God has for you. One of the beatitudes is blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8) Our hearts are the center of our lives. Proverbs gives us this warning, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." The New Living Translation says it better; "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." (Proverbs 4:23) Our hearts will set the course of our lives. Whatever a person puts in his heart that is what will come out in their lives.

We hear a lot these days about purpose and vision. The truth of the matter is our heart will determine our destiny in God. You can do all the right things and never find acceptance with God. One of the reasons why some people are so driven is because they are looking for acceptance from God. The harder they try the emptier they get. Many believers have turned their back on their faith because they get desperate to achieve a goal or a set of rules but their hearts are far from God. I remember listening to an interview of one of the world's richest men. The interviewer asked this man, "Why don't you retire?" The man's answer shocked me. He said, "Because I am not satisfied." One of the ways to total satisfaction and fulfillment is to keep a pure heart.

What are some of the areas that we need to be watchful of? One of the areas of our heart that is many times overlooked is the area of our motives. James 3:13-15 says, "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic." In verse 14, James tells us that if we have bitter envy, that means an envy that is eating you up, and self seeking, you are operating in a wisdom that is earthly, sensual and demonic. When our motives are just to please ourselves, we have a heart problem. That problem will continue to cause many other problems in our lives. We need to keep a watch over our motives to make sure that we are operating with a pure heart. We live in a time where selfishness is normal and being a servant is abnormal. That needs to change if we are really going to see God!

Another area is our mouths. Jesus told His disciples that out of the mouth the heart speaks. (Matthew 12:34-35) One thing that I have learned in years of personal ministry to people is that your mouth will betray you. All you need to do is allow people to talk and it will not be long and you will know the condition of their heart. Let me ask you, what are you talking about? Are you always talking about money? Then money has your heart. If you are talking a lot about Jesus, than Jesus has your heart. Is your favorite subject of conversation yourself? Then selfishness has your heart.

Just as in every other beatitude, Jesus gives a promise for those who will meet the condition. Jesus said, "They shall see God." In the Greek language there are several words for the words look or see. The word that Jesus used here means to have seen or see by having a revelation. Many people claim to have a revelation of God but only those who are pure in their heart really have that revelation. The requisite to revelation is purity in your hearts. I know that some people have boasted about their revelations of God. That is a sure sign that they have none. God will reveal Himself to those who are pure in motive, thoughts, speech, and actions. When selfish ambition sparks a "new revelation", that revelation didn't come from God. The only way that a person can truly know God is by revelation. According to Matthew 5:8, only those with a pure heart can have a revelation of God.

How do you get a pure heart? It is easy; first make sure that every area of your life is submitted to God and His Word. Then, let the Holy Spirit show you areas that need to change. Allow the Holy Spirit to give you tools you need to make those changes in your heart.