**Purity (of Heart) – Matthew 5:8**

 The spiritual life of the believer with a pure heart corresponds with their externally proclaimed faith.

Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters, as we continue our study and benefitting from the Beatitudes that Jesus proclaimed. Today we’re going to be examining the idea of purity of heart, which is often misunderstood. Sometimes people suppose that those with good will are the same as those who are pure in heart. Sometimes the hard worker seems to be pure. However, purity of heart refers to a deeper reality because Jesus speaks a beatitude about that characteristic in a different context (than what would be considered normal). Therefore, today we are going to be studying the character of the one who is pure in heart, as well as the importance of that quality for the benefit of our faith-lives. Once again, I stress that the spiritual life of the believer with a pure heart corresponds with their externally proclaimed faith. Let us speak, then, about this spiritual truth…

We become pure in heart when our faith rules over our whole being, whether internally and externally. In Jesus’ time, the people already suffered from those with impure hearts. Sometimes an impure heart was very obvious in society – sometimes not, however. Sometimes a person would be hardworking but driven by false doctrine, or by worship of a false god. Sometimes their proclaimed faith was fantastic, but their thoughts were evil, and their works were always lacking something. Sometimes there are people that seemed to be amazing people in public but monstrous personalities in their own homes.

Jesus was encouraging those around him who were truly devoted to God not to be grieved and be tempted to join those who were of impure heart (because they didn’t see immediate rewards to their purity). Yes, the road to salvation was narrow and full of obstacles, but not an impossible or unconquerable road. The Lord was intimating that as much as the pure of heart remained faithful to the Lord, their spiritual lives grew in the knowledge of God proportionately.

When the heart is pure, it resembles a house’s windows that have been cleaned. There was once a man that was complaining that the world looked yellow outside his home and that his eyes were weakening, until his wife cleaned the windows. Then, all of a sudden, then he saw the world much more clearly. Or, (another example would be that) another man was upset at his deteriorating vision because his perception of light was weakening – everything looked cloudy. The solution to his poor vision turned out to be cleaning his own eyeglasses!

Today, those who subject themselves to self-examination see the world and especially God clearly. Today, if you are led by the truth of the Scriptures, you see the world and God’s work in it clearly. If you have devoted the entirety of your life to Christ and he reigns over you as King, then your external spiritual life will be expressed based on that foundation. If the faith that you proclaim every Sunday during worship guides you from Monday thru Saturday, then your purity of heart shows up in your words and deeds.

Purity of heart is not a matter of simple honesty. Rather, it is the correspondence or consistency of both your internal and external spiritual lives. “You are blessed!”, says Jesus, when your verbal expression of your devotion toward Him guides your whole life, especially internally, for the Glory of God. The one that lives in Christ is an “open book” with his or her life; such people will see God’s Presence even now (in this life), and especially afterwards, when the time of the Final Judgment is upon all of us.

Therefore, let us examine ourselves today: if there are things or attitudes that are obstacles to our spiritual purity, let us drive those away from us or neutralize them. If we suffer from fears, fits of anger, or worries (from within), let us resolve those issues so that we can be an open book before Jesus, so that we can live with a clean conscience before God, so that our internal and external lives correspond to each other and glorify God.

The pure in heart will see God. Who doesn’t want that? Come and let us decide to do an internal “house-cleaning” today. Even more, come and let us decide not only to clean ourselves out, but to devote our internal spiritual life to the Glory of the Lord. The spiritual life of the believer with a pure heart corresponds with their externally proclaimed faith. God bless you all. Amen.