

06-22-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:8

Title: Seeing God

Matthew 5:3-8

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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

Getting to see famous person...

Imagine a famous dignitary sitting in the other room

Waiting to meet you...

What would you do?

What clothes would you wear?

What would you say?

Quite a few spent time yesterday cleaning up around the church, bushes trimmed, fresh paint, extra cleaning, straightening...

Why?

Make things look nice, presentable

Meeting someone important – look presentable

Have a relative in our family, always dresses well,
always looks nice – every time we see them, check to
see if we have a nicer clothes, see if we all look OK

Meeting, seeing God what do we do?

That's what this verse talks about today

How do we get presentable enough for God?

The question

Luke 10:25-26

25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

John 3 – Nicodemus

This really is the question – how do we get eternal life?

How do we see God?

How do we get relief from guilt?

From anxiety, frustration...

Luke 18:18

18 A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

How do we get behind the ceremony, the rules?

Often doesn't help us...

How do we get to reality?

How do we get into the kingdom?

The Jews were faced w/ a legal system they
knew they couldn't keep (if they were honest)
They were terribly insecure...

Is there security?

Can we find it anywhere?

How could they, can we, know they are citizens of the
kingdom?

How could they ever enter God's kingdom when
they couldn't keep the Law?

For us – can we ever be good enough to enter...

How can we be saved?

How can we enter the kingdom?

How can we inherit eternal life?

How do we get to the place where a holy God with no
sin, could ever accept us?

How do we ever get in?

This is the answer the Beatitudes are giving us

Verse 8 more than any other is telling us

Blessed are the pure in heart for they...

(Greek is emphatic here – they and they alone)

Only the pure in heart...

They shall see God

In one way this is the greatest of all the beatitudes

In another – there is none greater – they are all

important and necessary – none can be diminished or
left out – all of God's Word is inspired

When we come to the realization that we are poor in spirit – unworthy beggars, seeking help
Then we mourn because of our sin, because of the loss
We come gently, humbly, meekly before God
We hunger and thirst for what only God can give
We are shown mercy and are able then to show mercy
Once we have been granted mercy
And, by God's mercy, God cleanses our hearts b/c we
hunger and thirst for righteousness
Then, and then alone can we become pure in heart
Purity of heart comes after we hunger and thirst
for God's righteousness
After God has shown us mercy

When it comes down to it there are really only 2
religions in the whole world...

One is based on human achievement

What we can do, our good works...

The other is based on what God has already
done in Jesus

What God has done for us...

Those who try and see God on their own efforts –
never will be able to

It is only by God's work for us

Who enters the kingdom?

Who is saved?

Who is righteous?

Who's going to see God?

We have the answer right here...

Only the pure in heart

This is why Jesus came

This is what He accomplished on the cross

We owed a debt we couldn't pay

The debt of sin is death

To pay our debt we would have to die

Jesus died in our place

He paid the debt in full for us

Because of this we can be forgiven

Because of this we can be pure in heart

Not b/c of external actions

Because of God's internal work in us

So, how do we become pure in heart?

What does it mean?

Pure

It is not those outward observances

The ritual washings

The continual sacrifices

It is not human effort

It is the ones who have their hearts purified

They alone shall see God

You and I, all of us, have a tendency to measure ourselves by others

We use human criteria

Whenever we want to see how “good” we are

We just find someone else worse than us

Then, we’re OK

That makes the worst person around our standard

This isn’t the standard God set

We don’t have to be better than the liar,
the cheat, the thief...

If we want to see God – we have to be 100% pure

Totally and completely pure

1 Peter 1:16

... *“YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”*

Matthew 5:48

It is not those who follow an external standard

It is those pure on the inside

...who will see God

What is pure?

Don’t talk about it much?

In our day pure – kind of boring

Puritanical, outmoded, narrow-minded

Greek word – *katharos*

That’s for those guys that live down the road
from Eagle Harbor right...

Those guys w/ the long robes...

Nope! Purity is for those who have sought after righteousness, and have been shown mercy by God

The word means to cleanse from filth, from iniquity

In a moral sense – to be free from sin

Free from the defilement of sin

It is related to the Latin word *kastas*

We get our word chaste from this

The idea of the word is cleansing

Not mixed – as in wheat w/o chaff mixed in

Unalloyed – pure metal

A heart that is unmixed in its devotion

Unmixed in its motivation

It has the idea of singleness of heart – not double mindedness

Chapter 6:19 – where your heart is there will be your treasure also

The idea is a singleness of heart, devotion and motives

We can't serve 2 masters

Having a fixed desire for God, and only for God

More than pure motives

We can have pure motives and miss the mark

The motives need to be seen in our deeds

Pure motives – holy deeds

5 different kinds of purity

Primitive purity – purity only God can have
Created purity – angels and people created pure
Ultimate purity – believers have this in glory
Positional purity – Jesus’ righteousness, purity,
is imputed to all who believe in Him
Practical purity – trying to live out what we
have by position

2 Corinthians 7:1

Perfecting holiness, perfecting purity...

It is the positionally pure that will see God

They will be in His kingdom, have eternal life

This will be seen in their life

In pure motives and pure living

How can your heart be made pure?

Go to a monastery – get away from everything

NO!

See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil

Perfectionism doesn’t make it either

Purity is not s. we can do on our own

Proverbs 20:9

*9 Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart,
I am pure from my sin"?*

Purity comes by believing

Acts 15:9

...cleansing their hearts by faith.

Trust in the Lord Jesus

1 John 1:7

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin

John 15:3-4, 7

The pure in heart are people who have had their hearts cleansed, who have their insides cleaned

Pure in heart people have different attitudes from others – it is seen in sincerity a genuine love for God

It is seen in a hunger for greater purity

Remember David Brainerd? Early missionary to American Indians...

Very godly man, many hours in prayer, fasting, and in God's Word

Always felt unworthy...

Purity is seen in a hatred of sin

It is seen in a love for other believers

It is seen in a preoccupation w/ God, living in awe of God

Purity is an attitude of the heart, created in our hearts by God working in our hearts

Heart

Greek word for heart – *kardia*

Get our words cardiac from this

Not really talking about emotions here

It is more the inner person

It involves the emotions, and the mind
and the will

The heart is the place where everything happens inside
of you

We say we love someone w/ all our heart

Don't say w/ all our kidneys....

Our physical heart is the source of life

In Scripture the heart involves emotion and thought

Proverbs 4:23

*23 Watch over your heart with all diligence,
For from it flow the springs of life.*

The heart is where all the concerns of life come from

Matthew 15:19-20

The heart is what thinks and feels

The heart is our inner person

In Jesus day who were the people considered to be
most religious?

Pharisees – they looked religious

They acted religious, probably smelled...

It was all external signs

Always washing, always tithing...

They looked religious on the outside

They substituted man's traditions for
God's commands

Same is true today

People we see being "religious"

They are the so called spiritual ones

Before we see God there has to be a major change in
the core of who we are

It's not about religion

It's not about the outside

It is the inside, it involves radical change

A change only God can work

Our problem is right at the heart – the core of our
being

Psalms 51 David said – create in me a clean heart...

Psalms 57:7

7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;

Psalms 16:9

Therefore my heart is glad

It is not a matter of the external

It is a matter of the heart

Realizing there is nothing good in us

Seeking God to cleanse us, to make us pure

See God

...they shall see God

When/if we are pure

We shall see God

What does this mean?

Will we actually see God w/ our eyes?

In the Greek this is a future, continuous tense

It is actually saying...

We shall continually be seeing God for ourselves

We will continually live in His presence

We will be abiding w/ Him

We will know Him

We don't see Him now w/ our physical eye – rather w/
our spiritual

C.S. Lewis, author of the *Chronicles of Narnia*

Called these lands we live in the shadow lands

What we think is real, flesh and blood

Is actually merely a shadow

The spiritual realm is what is truly real, God is real

It is permanent, it is lasting

In reality, the real world is found in God's presence

Moses asked to see God's glory

Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father

When we see God – that is enough

When we are purified in heart by Jesus' blood – we
see God

He's alive to us and in us

We keep seeing Him

As we grow, become more mature, more pure
We see even more clearly

Job saw God in his trouble

The Psalmist saw God in creation

Others see Him in circumstances

He can be seen in the hearts of others

He is alive in this world

Unless we have our hearts cleansed,
purified – we don't see Him

Purity of heart cleanses the eye of the soul and makes
God visible

I remember I was in my early forties

I had never worn glasses in my life

20/20 vision

*Leslie and I had contest to see who could read signs 1st
driving down the road*

My Mom didn't wear glasses until her 40's either

Used to joke that we were the perfect ones

And then it happened...

Had recess duty one day

Watching kids on playground

Kids being kids, needed to tell them s.

Couldn't recognize their faces, from a distance

Uh, oh – maybe not perfect anymore

Had to get glasses, bifocals even...

When we repent and trust Jesus as our Savior
Our spiritual eye sight becomes 20/20
Before we were blind – now we can see
Better than laser surgery
Better than having cataracts removed
Jesus' cleansing
Restores our sight

Conclusion

Do you want to see God?
Do you want Him to be alive in your world?
You need a pure heart
You need to hunger and thirst for righteousness
Only Jesus can cleanse you

We will see God...
We will be in His presence
When we are clean on the inside
When we've been washed by the washing
of regeneration
It takes repentance
It takes applying Jesus'
righteousness to our lives

One day we will see God w/ real eyes
When we have our new body
We will be able to fully see Him

God's requirement is holiness

1 Peter 1:16 – you shall be holy for I am holy

Perfection is the standard

Not being better than____

Being holy – as good as God

That is just not possible for us on our own

We need a Redeemer

We need a righteousness that isn't our own

We need a God who will grant us righteousness

And then give us a new heart

1 Peter 1:18-20

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Benediction:

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Sermon outline

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Matthew 5:8

The q_____

P_____

H_____

See G_____