

Title: How To Be Clean!

Text: Matthew 5:8

Take your Bibles and turn with me to the Gospel of Matthew chapter 5. Our last time together we left off at the fiveth beatitude. Tonight we come to the 6th beatitude.

^{Please} Now, remember, these beatitude are not just referring to some future kingdom. They are for now. Jesus is telling us how to live the christian life...^{So} All of these beatitudes should be operating within the believer's life.

Matthew chapter 5 verse 8... 'BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.'

PREAYER

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for your word. And we thank you that it lives and abides forever and that it is sharper than any two edged sword piercing to the dividing point of soul and spirit. Father, help us to submit to your Word as you search us and reveal to us the meaning of purity. And we pray that you would help us to enter into the full impact of what it means to be pure in heart. And thus experience the wonderful promise of seeing God. And we ask this in the name of Jesus....Amen.

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If you were to translate this beatitude literally it would read: "BLESSED, THE PURE ONES IN THE HEART, BECAUSE THEY SHALL SEE GOD."

The word "pure" is not the word "separate," which is so often translated in the N.T. as "Holy", "Saint", etc.

The word that we are looking at has the basic idea of "being clean." It is talking about cleanliness.

The word "SEE" is the word from which we get our word "optical", or "optic" or "optimist".

And maybe you can understand what is being said in this beatitude by this simple statement: IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO SEE, WHEN THE LENSES ARE DIRTY.

If you are looking through a dirty window, you are missing much of what there is to see....RIGHT?.....

So, Jesus is relating "cleanliness" to "seeing properly." The reason a lot of people are not seeing properly in their christian experience is because they are dirty inside. It is as through you are wearing dirty glasses and they need to be cleaned in order for you to see properly.

Turn over to Matthew chapter 6 verse 22. Here is a tremendous illustration of Matthew chapter 6 beginning with Vs 22...."The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! "

It is a terrible thing to have cloudy vision. And please notice, the reason why it is cloudy, the reason we are not seeing clearly, is because of sin and dirt in the life. When sin is in our life we are not seeing what God wants us to see.

Over in Jerimaih 17:9, the prophet says that the heart is deceitful and desperately sick, who can understand it."

In other words, people who are trying to see God, but have sin in their life, result: Their vision is mared. They don't really see or understand God correctly.

This also applies to your prayer life...Many people never see answers to their prayers. WHY? There is sin in the life....

And I don't care what facts you know about ^{Jesus} God. If there is sin in the life, we are not seeing God properly. That is the teaching of the Bible.

You must, also, understand that the heart is referring to the central core of a person. It is not referring to this organ called "heart". ^{For Example} Jesus said "as Jonah was in the belly of the fish, so the son of man was in the belly of the earth." And it is interesting to note that in the Greek the word "belly" is the word "cardiac" or "heart". And it is referring to the central core.

We also read that the heart feels. It has emotions. And the heart sees and perceives and understands and thinks. The heart also wills and has discernment. So, the heart is referring to one's total personality. The total you. And ^JJesus said that the pure ones, the one's pure in the area of the heart, your central personality, These are the ones who will see God. They will see him properly. They will see Him as they ought to see Him. *Pss 119:9-11 where we shall see*

Now, what cleanses the heart? What cleanses this central core of our life. What cleans up our personality, our speech, our feelings, our emotions? *The answer is* ~~To understand this we must understand~~ the "doctrine of purity." In terms of the blessing that occurs to us daily by the knowledge of this, as well as the benefits that we can receive in the future, in seeing God as we ought to see Him, we must understand the doctrine of purity.

cont We have already learned that we ought to have an intense desire after God. To pursue Him. Not just the things that He will do for us, but to pursue God. And now we are learning what it means to see him. And you can't really pursue God if you are not seeing Him. And you cannot see Him if your heart is dirty.

So, there are two simple facts that should be clear in your mind concerning the doctrine of purity if you are to see God.

(1) Number one, Faith is belief that I am already clean because of my Position in Christ.

And the key to our POSITION is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that every believer has a position of right now being clean. So, we must accept the clear statements of the Bible that we are clean. Because our faith is resting in one thing: the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, I would like to illustrate this by turning to Hebrews chapter 1 verse 3... Hebrews chapter 1 verse 3 says, in speaking about Jesus: Christ, that He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature.

That is a fantastic statement about the deity of Jesus..."The exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When he had made purification of sins."

And the word "purification" is our word "to be clean" or "to be pure." You know, psychology has used this word. It is the Greek word "Catharsis."

Now, what does the psychologist mean by "Catharsis?" He means "to sit down on his couch and just pour out all your problems to him...talk them all out. And the results, he hopes, will be that you will feel clean. That you will walk away with a clean feeling. Of course, we all know that that is impossible. It is just like surgery over cancer that needs to be operated on. You are not really dealing with the problem, you are just putting surgery on it. The real CATHARSIS, the way people are really made clean on the inside is by a voluntary act on the part of Jesus. You will notice in Vs 3 that it is in the past tense. You see, at a moment of time Jesus purged our sins. It refers, of course, to the cross.

I notice, also, by this verse that Jesus did this by himself. It was all voluntary. And Jesus cleansed us completely from all our sins.

Now, friends, that is our position. And that is the first fact that we need to understand about the doctrine of purity.

(2) Secondly, concerning this doctrine of purity, we need to remember that that the blood of Jesus continually cleanses our daily walk. Would you turn to I John, please. I John chapter 1 verse 7....

You know, when ever I make the statement that the blood of Jesus continually cleanse our daily walk, I am amazed at how many people are surprised at that statement. Especially Baptist people who are suppose to believe the Bible. Now, a good way to find out how people think is just to tell them ~~that~~ that all their sins in the future, everyone of them, has already been paid for by the blood of Christ. It is interesting how many christians believe that Jesus could die for past sins, but they can't really believe that Jesus could die for future sins. Oh, listen, dear friends, all sins have been paid for. Once and for all, at the cross....PERIOD`.....

And I John 1:7 emphases this great truth..."If we walk in the light as He is in the light."

By the way, this isn't conditional. People often read it that way. "Well, I sure hope that I can walk in the light as He is in the Light?"

That is not what it says at all. Really, the word "if" is the word "since." "Since we walk in the light as He is in the Light."

You see, Jesus is ~~in~~ in the light in perfection. He is there by way of POSITION. So, this statement is referring to POSITION. Since we are already walking by way of habit in the light....in contrast to walking by habit of life in darkness....we have, according to Vs 7, two things.

(1) Number one...we have fellowship one with another.....

(2) Secondly, the blood of Jesus Christ, it says, cleanse us from all sins.

Now, once again, that word "cleanse" is the same word "pure one" in Matthew 5. And here it is "continues", as a habit of life.

Notice, I do not have to worry about the blood of Jesus. It is capable of cleansing all my sins. Every kind of sin. There isn't a single sin that the blood of Jesus hasn't already cleansed.....TREMENDOUS....

So, this is a statement of fact about those who are, by way of position, walking in the light. The blood of Jesus continues to cleanse you from every kind of sin. And I am glad of that truth. Because at the ~~moment~~ moment of faith, in my christian life, when I simply say to God..."GOD, I have sinned." At that moment the blood of Jesus covers and wipes out my sin....

Do you know what is the hardest problem in a Christians Life? Simply believing that?.....Why, the first time you confess your sin to God, the first thing that comes into your mind is: "I WONDER IF I WAS REALLY FORGIVEN OR NOT?"

You know, you confess your sin and the first thing you wonder about, "Well, what if I do it again?" "Am I really clean" "Did God really forgive me or not?"

Listen, dear friends, this is a statement of fact. The blood of Jesus continually cleanses us from every sin....PERIOD....All sin...

And I hope that that makes your heart really excited tonight. WHY? Because it is a tremendous principle to apply to your life.

Now, look at Vs 9..."If we confess our sins." That is, "acknowledge it" To say the same thing about our sin that God says. Confess means to agree with God. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful"....WHY?...Because the blood of Jesus has already paid for sin. "AND HE IS JUST"....That means that the blood was sufficient payment. No more sacrifice needed. The death of Jesus on the cross was final....complete....It is done. "HE IS JUST AND WILL FORGIVE US". "Forgive" means to take our sins away. Just remove them as far away as the East is from the West.

You know, in the O.T, when the lambs were killed and the blood was shed, people were made clean. But, they were only made clean in terms of "covering". That is the meaning of "YOM KIPPUR"...the day of atonement. It means "covering."

But, when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said; "behold the lamb of God" which does what?....."TAKES AWAY".....John did not use the word "covering." He said, This lamb has the most unusally blood the world has ever seen. It will acturally take away sin. Once and for all...Sap....Gone....

So, "if you acknowledge your sin, God is faithful and just to forgive your sin and to cleanse us". (And there is our word "pure" again.) "To cleanse us from all unrighteousness."....Every kind of unrighteousness is forgiven the moment you acknowledge your sin.

And it amazes me how many people refuse to believe this simple truth from God's Word. Oh, how, we need to believe the finality of the cross. And dear friends, the issue is faith. Nobody is clean without faith in the blood of Jesus. I am clean, once for all, through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now Some one usually ask at this point: "You must believe, then, that once you are saved, you are always saved and it doesn't matter what you do?"

NO...The truth is....Once you are saved you are always saved and it does matter what you do...It does matter.....Because, Jesus said, "If you love me you will obey me." So, it does matter.

But, if you mean, "Can I sin to the point that I am no longer under the blood of Jesus, the answer is NO...."

Oh, listen, dear friends, don't ever talk about cleanliness until you first of all understand POSITION. One of the biggest stumbling blocks in a Christian's life is "A ~~LACK~~ ^{LACK} OF UNDERSTANDING AS TO HIS POSITION.

People are up and down. They don't know if they are saved or not. And they run around looking for all kinds of external things to prove that they are saved and have the Holy Spirit.

We are ^{cleansed daily} ~~clean in~~ the blood of Jesus. That is our POSITION. ^{Now, do have} ~~You see,~~ every day I must remind myself that when Jesus died on the cross, every sin that I have ever committed was paid for.....PRAISE GOD!!!!

So, the moment you sin, just tell God about it. He already knows about it anyway. So, just acknowledge it. And at that moment the blood of Christ is applied and you are cleansed.

O.K. in Summary: Your position is "BLESSED"....You are to live your life in that Position of being pure in heart. AND THE PROMISE: YOU SHALL SEE GOD....Your vision will be clear....God will direct your path....

Shall we close in prayer