



Blessed are the Pure in Heart

Date: Sunday 7th June

Speaker: Tony Bunker

Key Verses: Matthew

Talk Summary:

Summary: Jesus tells us that there is enormous blessing in having a pure heart, because then we can see God. We are not expected to purify our hearts by our own efforts though, this is impossible to do. Instead we can invite the Holy Spirit to work within us as we seek to co-operate with Him, gradually becoming transformed to be more like Jesus.

- The beatitudes show the kind of lives that Jesus considers to be blessed, that is receiving the special favour of God.
- They are Jesus invitation to people who are broken to give their lives over to Him and be transformed. They are also a list of qualities that will start to appear in our lives as we follow Him, if we co-operate with the Holy Spirit's work in us.
- Our heart isn't just our emotions, it's also our thoughts, our will and decision making, it's the core of what makes us human.
- To be pure in heart means having an undivided heart, without a no-go area for God where parts of who we are, are kept away from His influence.
- Pure in heart also means having a heart that isn't contaminated by things that shouldn't be there.
- Seeing God is not about seeing Him face to face (yet!) but about seeing where He is at work and having our faith and vision lifted by this. It's about being able to align ourselves to the growth of the Kingdom of God.
- Our response to this beatitude could include:
 - o Repenting of specific sins that are contaminating our heart
 - o Dealing with our divided heart by giving God access to all areas, and then taking some concrete action to help to stop us slipping back again (eg spiritual practices)
 - o Go back and look at some of the earlier beatitudes such as 'blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted' or 'blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' if these feel

more appropriate to where you are right now. Perhaps write out and pray to God a lament based on how you are feeling.

- If you don't yet know the compelling beauty and joy of life with Jesus as your Lord, now is a great time to take that step and start to follow Him.
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Worship

- You could start your time by reading and reflecting on Psalm 51, or listening to one of the many worship songs inspired by this psalm.

Word

1. During this time of lock down what have you seen come from your heart? What good things have you discovered about yourself? What have been some more challenging revelations?
2. Do we find it easy to see where God is at work and allow that to increase our faith and lift our vision? If not, why not? How could we grow in this?
3. What response to this do you feel God is inviting you into? E.g. adding or adapting spiritual practices? SOZO etc.

Witness

- At this time issues of social justice and racial injustice are being highlighted. How can we live in such a way at this time that our lives are witnesses to God's hear for justice and equality?

Prophetic words that were shared on Sunday:

You may want to share these with your group and see if any of them resonate with anyone. Then take time to pray for each other.

- Joshua 1:9. some people have been 'afraid' of getting involved with Zoom calls and the other stuff online (for whatever reason), but that God was saying to not be afraid or discouraged because He will be with us wherever we go - even in to the digital world!
- There were a series of pictures:
 - a huge field that needed to be ploughed, but the plough was a manual plough and the task was huge and overwhelming.
 - a picture of the worker resting and being given a cool drink and some food to sustain them and this was happening frequently.
 - A picture again of the whole field from a different perspective, there were other workers too, ploughing their part of the field.
- The encouragement was that although the task ahead seems overwhelming, God is going to sustain you regularly. Just start the job and trust in God's provision of what you need. Remember you are not on your own in the task God has laid in front of you to do.
- Someone had a picture of jigsaw puzzle and a sense that your life feels like a puzzle with a missing piece. They felt there was an invitation to take a step back and look at the bigger picture rather than the small details.
- Hebrews 11:15-16 Encouragement to not look back at what has been, but to look to God and his kingdom with faith and expectancy.
- A sense that there are some "traps" that God want to free us from. Ways of thinking or behaving that we feel stuck in.