

13 - Sermon On the Mount - Matthew 5:8 2013-12-29

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Greek *katharos* "clean, clear, pure"

G2513 G2588

I. To see God, a person must be pure in heart

That is, to approach Him, to stand in His presence, to be accepted by Him

Psa 24:1-6 A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. (2) For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters. (3) Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? (4) He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. (5) He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. (6) This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. Selah

II. No one, in himself, is pure in heart

Pro 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

Jer 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

III. God shows our need to be purified in heart by many ceremonies that require ritual purification of the body

Num 19:16-20 Whoever in the open field touches one who is slain by a sword or who has died, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days. (17) 'And for an unclean person they shall take some of the ashes of the heifer burnt for purification from sin, and running water shall be put on them in a vessel. (18) A clean person shall take hyssop and dip it in the water, sprinkle it on the tent, on all the vessels, on the persons who were there, or on the one who touched a bone, the slain, the dead, or a grave. (19) The clean person shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day; and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, wash his clothes, and bathe in water; and at evening he shall be clean. (20) 'But the man who is unclean and does not purify himself, that person shall be cut off from among the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. The water of purification has not been sprinkled on him; he is unclean.

IV. The Pharisees would practice this ritual purification of the body, and add more ritual purifications of their own invention, while neglecting purification of the heart

Mat 23:25-28 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse [G2511] the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. (26) Blind

Pharisee, first cleanse [G2511] the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean [2513] also. (27) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness [*akatharsia*]. (28) Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

It would seem to people that it was a state of blessedness to be so ceremonially pure; it would seem that these people would be fit for the kingdom of heaven, fit to stand in the presence of Messiah when He comes

V. But it is not the ritually pure that are blessed, but the pure in heart

APPLICATION

- not "blessed are those who go to church"
- not "blessed are those who have been baptized"

VI. No man can purify his own heart; for it to be pure, God must purify it; therefore the sinner must cry for the Lord to purify His heart

Psa 51:1-11 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David When Nathan the Prophet Went to Him, After He Had Gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. (2) Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. (3) For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. (4) Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. (5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. (6) Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. (7) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (8) Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. (9) Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. (11) Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

V. Indeed the Lord does purify the heart of those who call on Him

Act 15:7-9 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. (8) So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, (9) and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

Jas 4:7-10 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Psalm 51

Hebrews 9:14, 10:22

1 John 3:2-6

3 John 1:11

Hebrews 12:14

1 Timothy 1:5

2 Timothy 2:22

1 Peter 1:22

Gen 20:6

Job 11:13

Job 33:3

Psalm 24:4

Psalm 51:10

Rev 22:1-5 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. (2) In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was

the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (3) And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. (4) They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. (5) There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Spurgeon:

There are no pure hearts on earth unless the Lord has made them so, and none shall see God in heaven who have not been purified by grace while here below. Lord, create in me a clean heart, that I may behold thee, both now and for ever!

Gill on Psalm 24:

no man has a pure heart naturally and of himself: the heart is desperately wicked; the imagination of the thoughts of it is evil continually; the mind and conscience are defiled with sin; nor can any man make his heart clean, or say he is pure from sin; but it is God that creates a clean heart, and renews a right spirit within men, and purifies the heart by faith, which is led to the blood of sprinkling, which purges the conscience, and cleanseth it from all sin; and from this purity of heart flows purity of life and conversation, signified by "clean hands"; the hand being the instrument of action, holy actions, or good works, performed from a principle of grace, are meant; the phrase is expressive of a holy, harmless, and innocent conversation, washing the hands being used to denote innocence, Mat_27:24; not a conversation entirely free from sin, nor by which a man is justified before God; for though he wash his hands ever so clean, they will not be pure in his sight, and will need washing in the blood of the Lamb; but it denotes a conversation upright in general, and declares a man righteous in the sight of men, and distinguishes him from one of a dissolute life, whose hands are full of blood, and defiled with sin;