

## **Matthew Lesson 32 – FAQ**

Date: July 20, 2025

### **What does it mean to be "pure in heart" according to the Sermon on the Mount?**

- Being "pure in heart" refers to an internal condition—specifically the state of one's thoughts, will, and motives—rather than external actions or religious rituals.
- The Greek word *kardía* (heart) in this context signifies the thinking process and the seat of one's personality, which influences the will and emotions.
- Jesus emphasizes that true purity comes from within, in contrast to the Pharisees' focus on outward adherence to the law.
- A pure heart is characterized by a singleness of devotion and single purpose toward God, free from double-mindedness or mixed motives.

### **Why is the "heart" so important in Christian teaching?**

- In biblical teaching, the heart is considered the central part of a person—the inner man from which all of life's issues flow.
- Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV) states: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."
- It is the source of one's thoughts, will, actions, and emotions.
- Old Testament passages (e.g., Jeremiah 17:9, Genesis 6:5) and Jesus' teachings reveal that sin and wickedness originate in the heart.
- God prioritizes a changed heart over external religious performance.

### **How does the concept of "purity" relate to sin and confession?**

- The Greek word *katharós* means to be cleansed from filth and iniquity, free from sin, unalloyed, unadulterated, and unmixed.
- Sin causes a loss of purity.
- Confession and repentance are the means by which purity is restored.
- 1 John 1:9 (NKJV): "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- This assurance applies to past, present, and future sins, and allows believers to continually strive for holiness as they grow in sanctification.

### **What is the primary difference between Jesus's teaching on purity and the religious practices of the Pharisees?**

- The Pharisees emphasized external law-keeping and ritual ceremonies as the path to righteousness (e.g., handwashing).
- Jesus, however, taught that defilement comes from within—from evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, etc.
- Matthew 15:19 (NKJV): "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."
- Jesus taught that God evaluates the internal condition of the heart, not outward religious activity.
- Ceremony alone is meaningless without a proper heart before God.

### **What is the meaning of "leaning on the everlasting arms"?**

- This phrase means placing complete trust and reliance on God for security, peace, and guidance through all of life.
- It expresses the idea that God is an eternal refuge, always present with unwavering support.
- Deuteronomy 33:27 (NKJV): "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."
- Believers are encouraged to find rest and comfort in God's strength, regardless of circumstances.

### **How does sincere worship and praise connect to the condition of one's heart?**

- Sincere worship and praise are outward expressions of a proper heart condition.
- When the heart is steadfast and focused on God, it naturally produces praise and worship.
- David in the Psalms models this—singing and giving praise flowed from a heart set on God.
- True worship is not about performance but about genuine inner devotion and purity of motive.
- Even if one stumbles externally, a heart that seeks after God allows for acceptable worship.

### **What is the "single motive" that God desires from believers?**

- God desires a pure motive, defined by a singleness of heart, devotion, and purpose.
- This means having undivided allegiance to God rather than attempting to serve two masters.
- Matthew 6:24 (NKJV): "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."
- Every action and attitude should be directed toward glorifying God and doing His will.
- When a motive is pure, the life reflects God's values and desires above the world's.

### **What is the overall "normal condition" God desires for a Christian's heart?**

- God desires a heart that is pure in motive and marked by genuine transformation.
- This heart speaks about Jesus, grows in holiness, and continually seeks a deeper walk with God.
- It prioritizes repentance, confession, and the pursuit of righteousness.
- Though no one is entirely pure, the goal is to live as a light to the world, allowing the Holy Spirit to transform the heart to match God's standards.

### **Greek Word Glossary**

- Kardía (καρδία) – kar-DEE-ah
  - Definition: Heart; the seat of intellect, emotion, and will.
  - Biblical Use: Refers to the inner person from which motives and thoughts arise.
  - Footnote: Used in Jesus' teaching on being "pure in heart."
- Katharós (καθαρός) – ka-thah-ROSS
  - Definition: Clean, pure, unsoiled, free from corrupt desire or sin.
  - Biblical Use: Used to describe inward purity in contrast to outward ceremonial cleanliness.
  - Footnote: Referenced in relation to purity of heart and sanctification.