

Briefing Document: The Sermon on the Mount – Happy Are the Holy

Lesson 32 – July 20, 2025

Topic:

The Beatitude: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8)

I. Core Message: God Desires a Pure Heart, Not External Rituals

- The heart of this message is that God is concerned with internal purity rather than outward religious actions.
- The sermon critiques the Pharisees and Sadducees, who emphasized external observance of the law over the condition of the heart.

"For them, everything was external. Everything was about what you do—'You need to do this, you need to do that.' In most Judaic teachings, there was very little about your inner heart condition."

- In contrast, Jesus emphasizes the importance of inward purity rather than rituals like hand-washing.

"I don't care if you come to church every day of the week or go to Bible studies three times a week. I don't care if you carry a Bible around all day. If your heart is not clean, then you have not met God's standard."

II. Defining the "Heart" and "Purity"

The Heart (Greek: *kardía*)¹

- The "heart" is the inner man, the seat of personality, and thinking.
- In Jewish thought, emotions were believed to originate from the bowels, while the heart represented thought and will.
- The mind (the generator) influences the will (the flywheel), which produces emotion.
- Jesus is therefore talking about how we think, which shapes our will and thus controls our emotions.

Proverbs 23:7 – "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

Proverbs 4:23 – "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

Matthew 15:19 – "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

Purity (Greek: katharós)²

- Katharós means to be cleansed from filth and iniquity, free from sin.
- It implies being unmixed, unalloyed, sincere, and whole.
- Christians are made impure by sin; the solution is confession and repentance.

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- Purity also implies:
 - Spiritual integrity
 - Singleness of heart
 - Pure motives
 - Not being “double-minded”

Jeremiah 32:39 – “Then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever.”

Matthew 6:21–23 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...”

Matthew 6:24 – “No one can serve two masters...”

James 4:4, 8 – “Friendship with the world is enmity with God... Purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

III. Biblical Examples and Practical Implications

Saul vs. David

- Saul: Though God gave him another heart, Saul eventually became disobedient and spiritually distant, resulting in God rejecting his kingship.

- David: Though flawed, David was called “a man after God's own heart.” His heart was aligned with God:

Psalm 51:10 – “Create in me a clean heart, O God...”

Psalm 9:1 – “I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart...”

Psalm 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight...”

1 Samuel 16:7 – “...For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Practical Application for Believers

- A pure heart leads to:
 - Obedience
 - Lifestyle change
 - Pure motives
 - Daily sanctification

“Walk a pathway that will make you more saintly every day.”

- Ongoing repentance and confession are essential.
- The ultimate aim is sanctification, leading to glorification—becoming like Christ.

IV. Worship and Community Elements

Prayer

- The message is opened and closed with prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit's help in understanding and applying the Word.

Music

- Hymns used:
 - “Blessed Be Your Name”
 - “For the Beauty of the Earth”
 - “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
 - “Just As I Am”

Announcements

- Included standard details about meetings, programs, and birthdays.

Mentorship and Legacy

- Tribute given to the late John MacArthur, honoring his example of unwavering commitment to truth.

Conclusion

This message calls believers to cultivate a pure heart as the essential foundation for a relationship with God. It is not outward rituals that matter but inward transformation—achieved through repentance, confession, and a sincere, single-hearted devotion to God.

Greek Words Used

1. Kardía (kar-DEE-ah) – καρδία
 - Meaning: The inner man, mind, seat of will and thought; not emotion in ancient Jewish understanding.
2. Katharós (ka-tha-ROSS) – καθάρως
 - Meaning: Clean, pure, untainted; free from sin, unmixed motives; moral and spiritual integrity.