

Briefing Document: Sermon on the Mount – “Happy Are the Holy”

Lesson 33 – July 27, 2025
New Life Family Worship Center

I. Core Message: The Pursuit of Pure Motives and Practical Purity

The central teaching is rooted in Matthew 5:8 (NKJV):
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

The speaker emphasizes that God desires pure motives, not perfection. However, motives alone are insufficient—holy deeds that align with Scripture must accompany them. Several forms of purity are discussed, with a strong emphasis on the believer’s responsibility to pursue practical purity.

II. Key Themes and Concepts

A. Understanding Purity of Heart

- Purity is described not as moral perfection but as a consistent striving for purity.
- This is the “normal condition for a child of God.”
- Romans 7 is used to illustrate Paul’s battle between pure motives and the sinful flesh.
- God values pure intentions, and the absence of such may indicate a disconnect from Him.

B. The Insufficiency of Motive Alone

- The Greek word *katharos* (καθαρός) for “pure” conveys more than motive; it demands alignment with God’s Word.
- Illustrations of misguided sincerity (e.g., self-flagellation) underscore that zeal without truth lacks spiritual value.
- Quote from Thomas Watson: “Morality can drown a man as fast as his vice. A vessel might sink with gold or with dung.”

C. Five Kinds of Purity

1. Primitive Purity – Found only in God; intrinsic to His nature.
2. Creative Purity – The state in which angels and humans were created—pure before the Fall.
3. Ultimate Purity – The final glorified state when believers are made perfect in heaven.
 - 1 John 3:2 (NKJV): “We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”
4. Positional Purity – The righteousness imputed to believers at salvation.
 - Supported by Romans 3, 5; Galatians 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 5; 2 Corinthians 11.
5. Practical Purity – Lived out daily. The hardest to maintain but vital for true witness.

- 2 Corinthians 7:1 (NKJV): “Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

D. The Process of Purity (Sanctification)

- Purity is not a static trait but a dynamic journey of sanctification.
- The more sanctified a believer becomes, the more pure their life appears.

E. Dealing with Impurity: Temptation and Failure

- Believers will face ongoing temptations in thought, word, and deed.
- Scriptural tools for defense:
 - Ephesians 6: The full armor of God.
 - 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.”
- The speaker uses the metaphor: “You buy some lumber, you build a bridge, and you get over it.”

F. Dispelling False Notions of Purity

- Monasticism – Retreating from the world does not equate to holiness.
- Second Work of Grace / Sinless Perfection – The claim that a believer can be entirely free from sin is dismissed.
- “Everybody sins, and that's why we need a Savior.”

G. The Purpose of Purity: Glorifying God

- The ultimate aim of purity is to glorify God.
- There is no higher purpose for a believer than to reflect God's holiness.

III. Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 5:8–12 – Beatitudes focused on purity, peacemaking, and persecution.
- Matthew 5:14–16 – “Let your light so shine before men...”
- Romans 7:21–24 – Paul's internal conflict.
- 1 John 3:2 – Promise of future purity.
- 1 John 1:9 – Confession and cleansing.
- 2 Corinthians 7:1 – Call to pursue holiness.
- Ephesians 6:10–20 – Armor of God.
- Psalm 23 – God's guidance.
- Psalm 57 – “My heart is fixed, O God...”

IV. Practical Applications and Encouragements

- Self-Reflection – “Did I pursue purity yesterday, or was I a stinker? And if I was, did I recognize it?”
- God's Grace and Realism – God understands we are not perfect. He looks for genuine effort.
- Personal Responsibility – “You are the one that has to work at being pure.”
- Trials and Discipline – Hardship may be God's loving correction.
- Foundation in Christ – “The foundation of rock for your life is the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

- Supportive Community – “Keep your eyes open for those who are struggling and show them the Lord’s love.”

V. Greek Words Used

- katharos (καθαρός) – Pronounced: KA-tha-ros

Definition: Clean, pure, unsoiled. In biblical usage, it refers to moral and spiritual purity, especially inward purity that aligns with God’s nature and will.

Used in Matthew 5:8: “Blessed are the pure (katharos) in heart...”