**Purity Leads to Vision**

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

Remember that last week I mentioned that we are human beings, not human doings. What matters first is our being, and our being will determine our doing. Jesus does not say those who ACT pure but those who ARE pure. The emphasis Jesus puts on Christians is on their hearts, not their heads. Intellectual knowledge and understanding of the gospel is important, but the very heart of the person matters much too: maybe more

The heart is the chief organ of physical life. Remove the heart and there is no life in a person. The Bible tells us that where there is no blood there is no life. The heart is responsible for pumping this life to the rest of the body. The heart is at the center of our body and its functions. In the Bible the heart represents the center of our being spiritually.

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it (NIV)

The heart is the seat of life. Everything about our life flows from it. EVERYTHING: imagination, the will, reasoning, affections, perceptions, understanding, morality, conscience, intentions, and so on.

Proverbs 27:19 As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart (NIV)

Everything we do in life is a reflection of our heart. The way we act simply shows us who we are on the inside and it shows others too. Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. This means even the things we say—joking or serious—are all a reflection of the state of our heart. If your heart is pure, pure things will flow from it. If your heart is impure, impure things will come from your mouth and actions.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (ESV)

Jeremiah takes it further to suggest not only does everything about who we are flow from our heart, but our hearts are naturally wicked. The heart is naturally deceitful and wicked. It is the very opposite of pure. All of our troubles flow from the heart. All our troubles flow from within. Our environment is not to blame for our sin; our past is not to blame for our sin; our relationships are not to blame for our sin. Our heart is to blame for our sin. But we have a problem because Jesus said the PURE in heart will see God, but our hearts are not naturally pure. David echoed this understanding of his heart condition when he prayed in the Psalms:

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me (ESV)

Our hearts must be pure and clean before God, but they are naturally impure, so what we need is cleansing. We need a heart change. We need our hearts to change from being hard to being soft. We need hearts that change from being full of evil to full of good. But how can our heart be changed? Only by putting faith in Jesus. When we accept Jesus as Savior—when we put our faith in Him it involves the heart.

Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your **HEART** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved

When we put our faith in Jesus the state of our heart goes from that of not believing in Him to believing in Him and who He is and what He has done.

We cannot simply agree to the gospel with our mind, we must believe in it in our heart!

We said before that the heart is the whole of the person—or really, their personality, therefore: Believing in the heart is not just an emotional feeling. Believing that Jesus is Lord and God raised Him from the dead is not just some emotional excitement about Jesus. It’s not just being happy about what God did. It’s about accepting who Jesus is on every level of our being. It changes our way of life! It takes our heart from impurity to purity!

And as a result of this change in our hearts, we also begin to see God. It’s a promise of Jesus that the PURE in heart will SEE God. This does not just mean we will see Jesus in heaven one day, but that we can and do SEE Him now! In Ephesians Paul writes to the Ephesians saying that he is praying that the eyes of their heart may be opened so they may see God—Jesus for who He really is.

Ephesians 1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17**that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18**having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints (ESV)

This is the promise for those pure in heart! We will see Jesus. One day we will see Jesus with our eyes, but not now. Now we do not see with our eyes; we see with our heart. Now we see God in ways the non-Christian person does not. We understand Him in ways the believer does not. The Bible says that the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. They don’t understand it. They don’t SEE! The Bible also says that spiritual things only make sense to the spiritual. Pure people have the eyes of their heart opened to SEE God.

The pure in heart see God! They see how wonderful and powerful He is. They see how mighty and awesome He is! And because they see they are prompted to action! Our heart is drawn towards God and therefore drawn to others.

Psalms 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.