

Matthew 5:8: “Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God”

Biblically, what is the heart? It’s the center of a person’s being. It’s the image of who we are; however, it is also the seat of all our troubles.

Matthew 15:19:

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies...”

One of the biggest excuses for criminal behavior these days is claiming that a person’s environment is the main factor in his/her decision to break the law. May I remind us that when Adam and Eve sinned, they were in a perfect environment? They could have chosen not to sin, but they made the wrong choice. Man will sin even in paradise!

Then, there’s the idea put forth that a good education will solve any problem. You can take a thief and educate his head without changing his heart. What do you get: You get a smarter thief—now instead of putting on a mask and robbing a liquor store, he can get a white collar job and embezzle from the company!

Our heart represents the vital center and source of our beings, emotions and sensibilities, our sincere feelings and beliefs. “Pure in heart” means “sincere.” It means to be without hypocrisy and with nothing hidden. No doubt Matthew 5:8 was aimed at people who were only concerned with outward appearance, like the Pharisees. Jesus said they were like whitewashed tombs, but inside were dead men’s bones! They were like a pot that’s clean on the outside but filthy inside.

We could compare it to an elegant restaurant. It looks pristine and spotless in the dining room, but then the Health Department comes in for an inspection and shuts them down because of what they see in the kitchen!

Pure in heart means “What you see is what you get!”

Notice the promise in this verse: Matthew 5:8 “Blessed [anticipating God’s presence, spiritually mature] are the pure in heart [those with integrity, moral courage, and godly character], for they will see God.

Verse 8 says “they shall see God”. We know this is true as a future event, but I believe it applies to us now, today. Jesus said to remove the beam from our own

eye, and then we'll be able to see clearly! Then we will be able to sense His presence like never before. We will be able to see Him more distinctly than we ever could through the muddy waters that result from an impure heart.

To be pure in heart is to be honest with others...and with ourselves as well. God already knows everything we think, say and do...He's just watching and waiting to see if we will admit it before Him!

It's not enough to just be baptized—we need to convey our changed lives and exhibit our citizenship in the kingdom of God in our daily lives. God will 'show through' and give us a new attitude: upward: getting right with God; outward: dealing with others differently; and inward, being true to ourselves and to God in our inward parts!

These new attitudes testify to our disposition and determination in life. Jesus offered these "be-attitudes" to remind us that God isn't focused on man's outward performance but with what is on the inside.

The word "pure" (katharos) means to cleanse our mind and emotions. Scholars suggest the word has two meanings: (1) To make pure by cleansing from dirt, filth, or contamination like metals being refined by fire until they are free from impurities. (2) It also refers to being unmixed, having no double allegiance.

Purity isn't just being clean; it is to be single-minded and intentionally focused. In this instance, God wants us to be focused on His kingdom and His righteousness.

Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other".

A person with a passion for purity is one who has been cleansed in his character so that the way he acts in public is the way he acts in private. Jesus shows up in us daily even when no one is watching.

A man and his young son were driving down a country road one day and saw a watermelon patch a little way off the highway. The man told his son to keep a lookout while he went to get a melon. He snuck into the patch, took a melon and called to the boy, "Is anyone coming? Look both ways." The boy wisely responded, "But Daddy, shouldn't we look up, too?"

Having a pure heart is to be so close to God that we don't have to look up to see if

he's watching. It means we have a personal relationship with God, and we only have to look within our heart to see Him.

Psalms. 24:3-4: "Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false".

Jesus didn't say: "Blessed are the pure in religion , for they will see God." If He had, some of the religious people of His day would have been happy because they were experts at outward purity. They had a great many rules on what to eat, what to wear, how far you could walk on the Sabbath and so on. They tried to make the outside look good, but they were covering up the inside.

Those who possess purity within their hearts will receive a wonderful blessing – they will see God. The words "they will see God" means that people with a pure heart will see God at work in their lives. That is, the pure in heart will be with Jesus before God on His throne.

We don't sin because of our surroundings; we sin because of what is in our heart. That is why God is so consumed with the purity of our hearts. He wants His best in us!