

## THE PURE IN HEART - MT. 5:8

### Introduction

- A. Text: **Mt. 5:8**.
- B. In Greek, *katharos* meant “clean” or “pure.”
  - 1. From this word, we get our word “catharsis,” which means a purging or cleansing.
  - 2. In secular Greek, *katharos* was used in a variety of contexts: for example, a soiled garment that had been washed, corn with the chaff winnowed out, and an army purged of unacceptable soldiers.
- C. In **Mt. 5:8**, it is this word that is translated “pure.”
- D. The need for a pure heart is often emphasized - **1 Tim. 1:5**. Cf. **2 Tim. 2:22**; **1 Pt. 1:22**.
- E. There are at least three different ways in which our hearts must be “pure.”

### I. CLEAN MINDS

- A. At the very least, **Mt. 5:8** calls us to have *clean* minds and hearts — wholesome, unsullied, and chaste.
  - 1. We must be clean on the *inside* as well as the *outside*. Cf. **Mt. 23:25-28**.
  - 2. If we wish to see God, we must *discipline* our hearts and keep them free of corruption and defilement - **Eph. 5:3,4**; **Phil. 4:8**.
- B. In a society saturated with filth, we must sit up and take notice of the *warning* implied in **Mt. 5:8**.

### II. UNMIXED MOTIVES

- A. But “pure” can also mean “unmixed” or “unadulterated.”
  - 1. Cf. “the pure milk of the word” (**1 Pt. 2:2**).
  - 2. In this passage a different Greek word, *adolos*, is used — but the point is much the same.
- B. So in addition to being clean, pure hearts are *genuine* or *sincere*.
- C. Consider these paraphrases of **Mt. 5:8**:
  - 1. “Blessed is the man whose motives are always entirely unmixed” (Barclay).
  - 2. “Happy are the utterly sincere” (Phillips).
- D. We must strive to obey God for *reasons* that are entirely the right ones, rather than letting *ulterior motives* creep in. Cf. **Mt. 23:5-7**; **Phil. 1:15-17**.
- E. It is exceedingly *difficult* to do good with no taint of impure motive — but we must avoid letting our love of God be tinged with love of the praise of men, our desire to give be diluted with a desire to get, and our unselfish impulses be alloyed with selfish ambition.

### III. SINGLE-MINDED COMMITMENT

- A. Often, to say a thing is pure is to say that *nothing else has been added to it*, whether clean or unclean.

1. In this sense, pure denotes something that is *free of foreign elements*.
    - a. With no admixture or dilution, a pure thing is what it is, exactly and fully.
    - b. Pure aluminum has no trace of alloy, pure acid is full-strength acid, etc.
  2. When we talk of purity in this way, we mean that a thing is “exclusive” — *it excludes everything else in order to be one thing!*
- B. Looking at it in this way, we can say that being “pure in heart” means being *single-minded* in our devotion to God.
1. We must be able to “focus in” and serve God with a wholehearted commitment that has no competition. Cf. **2 Cor. 10:5**.
  2. “You shall have no other gods before Me” (**Exo. 20:3**).
  3. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might” (**Deut. 6:4,5**). Cf. **Mt. 22:35-38**.
- C. God wants us, in this good sense, to have a “one-track mind.” Cf. **Psa. 86:11**.
- D. Are we guilty of “adulterated” — and therefore “adulterous” — thinking? Cf. **Jas. 4:4,8**.
- E. We simply cannot see God if we have conflicts of interest, divided loyalties, mixed allegiances.
1. If interest in other things — however good — conflicts with God, we will be lost.
    - a. “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” (**Mt. 6:24**).
    - b. “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad” (**Mt. 12:30**). Cf. **Rev. 3:15,16**.
  2. It is impossible to have an ultimate commitment to two things at once.
- F. Too much of the time, we try to “have our cake and eat it, too” — we have not really made up our minds about God.
- G. But God wants us to put our (whole) “heart into it” and go “all out.” Cf. **Eccl. 9:10**.
1. We need to get “in or out” of the work, to “fish or cut bait.”
  2. We must have an unqualified, unreserved, no-strings-attached commitment.
- H. We must be certain of our faith — and *decisive* in our dedication to God.

### Conclusion

- A. To be “holy” involves being “wholly” the Lord’s person, entirely reserved for His will and His work.
- B. Such is possible - **2 Kgs. 23:25**.
- C. In this day of frantic entanglement in a myriad of causes, concerns, and commerce, could there be anything more challenging than to be told by our Lord to have hearts that are purely fixed on *One Thing*? Cf. **Lk. 10:38-42**.
- D. Many will not go to heaven because they have just *never fully made up their minds to go* — but those who will “see God” are those who are possessed of such a *single-mindedness* that they will not be denied!
- E. Are we: *Fully* sanctified to spiritual service? *Totally* dedicated to good works? *Thoroughly* consecrated to our heavenly calling? *Completely* devoted to the Lord?
- F. *Wholehearted devotion* is what the Lord desires of us. Cf. **Deut. 10:12,13**.