

The Sermon on the Mount Pure in Heart

“Blessed are the pure in heart,” Matthew 5:8

In this section Jesus declares the standard that God requires in order to see him. We found in the Scripture that the requirement was clearly stated by Jesus when he said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they [*autoi (Gk)*, they and they alone] shall see God," Matthew 5:8. Not just anyone will see God, only those who are pure in heart toward God.

He clearly gave the standard--a pure heart before God. He was clear that we can never be in God's kingdom, never enter God's presence, never have his forgiveness, never know the redeemer, never know salvation, and thus die frustrated in our sins, unless our hearts are pure.

The obvious questions: "How is that possible?" "Who can be saved?" Jesus establishes an impossible standard. Jesus later said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible," v. 25. Even with our best intentions our hearts are far from meeting the requirement of a perfect heart. Yet that is the characteristic of those who are saved. The wonder of it all is--that is exactly why Jesus came to earth and died on the cross -- to purify our hearts so we may stand before God pure.

When Jesus died on the cross, he took the sin that was accounted to us and paid the entire penalty required by God. When we believe and trust in the finished work of Jesus, God's righteousness and purity is imparted to us and we receive a new heart. We are no longer bound by the old heart that was rebellious against God. We receive this transaction by faith. It is by this transaction that our hearts are pure and in right standing before God. We are now able to live out of a pure heart to obey and serve the living God.