

27 September



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Beatitudes



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when it was really challenging for you to restore or reconcile with a family member or friend who did you wrong?
2. According to Matthew 5:8 what does Jesus promise to those who are pure in heart? (**For they will see God**).
3. According to 1 Samuel 16:7; what does the Lord look at, or what is important to God? (**The Lord looks at the heart**).
4. What is the goal or purpose of a pure heart? (**To see God, and to enjoy Him in an intimate relationship**).



Let's go deeper

5. What does Jesus promise those who are peacemakers in Matt.5:9? (**Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God**)
6. What does it mean to be a peacemaker? (**To be a messenger of, and entrusted with God's peace and reconciliation – see 2 Cor. 5:18**).
7. How can I be a peacemaker? (**To have peace with God – Rom.5:1; and to bring God's reconciliation to broken relationships – 2 Cor.5:18**)
8. Who is Jesus called in Isaiah 9:6? (**Wonderful Counsellor; Mighty God; Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace**).



Let's apply this

9. Today's choices are called the **housecleaning choice**; we make this choice when we say, "I openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God and someone I trust" Matt. 5:8, *"God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God."* (NLT)

The **relationship choice**; Jesus said in Matt. 5:9, "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God" (NLT).

1. Am I honest to God about myself, and do I have a friend that I can trust to help me walk in purity?
2. Is there a relationship that I need to restore or reconcile with?

SUMMARY:

Read: Matthew 5:8 – 9; Matthew 23:25 – 26; 15:18 – 19; 12:33 – 34; 1 Samuel 16:7.

- The Beatitudes:

Matthew 5:8 – 9; Jesus' Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes, a list of blessings that describe the character of those who are true servants of God and the kingdom of heaven. This teaching was part of Jesus Christ's intensive discipleship training for His twelve chosen apostles.

v.8; The first thing we learn from this beatitude is that Jesus is concerned with our heart. The heart is who you are, in the secrecy of your thought and feeling, when nobody knows but God. And what you are at the invisible root matters, as much to God as what you are at the visible branch. So, the heart is crucial to Jesus. What we are in the private times of our lives is what He cares about most. Jesus says, "Blessed are the pure in heart," because they will see God. Seeing God is the great goal of being pure. When Jesus promises the reward of "seeing God," there are at least these three things implied: We will be admitted to his presence, not just kept in the waiting room. We will be awestruck with a direct experience of his glory. And we will be helped and comforted by his grace. Purity of heart is to desire God's truth and God's value in everything we do. The aim of the pure heart is to align itself with the truth of God and magnify the worth of God. To be pure in heart, pursue God with utter single-mindedness.

v.9; Jesus laid down His life to make peace between God and sinners, and when we can carry that message of peace to others, we are peacemakers. God delights in those who reconcile others to Himself, those who bring the gospel are "beautiful" (Is.52:7). God "reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor.5:18). Those who bring reconciliation to broken relationships are carrying on the work of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Those who give themselves as Jesus did in order that others may know God are called "blessed." Only children of God can bring the peace of knowing God to others. A person must be in relationship with God before he or she can help someone else know God. Those who witness for Christ, share their faith with their friends and serve others in the name of Christ are the ambassadors for peace (Matt.10:41-42). Those who bring the message of God's peace to the world are "peacemakers" and called children of God.

Application:

Today's choices are called the **housecleaning choice**; we make this choice when we say, "I openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God and someone I trust" Matt. 5:8, *"God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God."* (NLT) The **relationship choice**; Jesus said in Matt. 5:9, "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God" (NLT).