

## Week 7: The Pure in Heart

*Jesus is not describing eight different persons but is describing eight different qualities of the same person.*

– Darrell Johnson

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

**Theme:** We see God in our world and our lives because he has made us pure through Christ.

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### INTRODUCTION:

**Icebreaker:** What is one of the most beautiful or awe inspiring things you have ever seen? How did it make you feel?

**Opening Prayer:** Have a member of the group offer a prayer to start the meeting.

Example Prayer: *Heavenly Father, teach us what it means to be pure in heart so that we will have eyes that can clearly see you and how you are at work in our world. In Jesus name, Amen.*

### LESSON BEGINS:

#### WEEK 7 BEATITUDE MEDITATION:

**Read Matthew 5:3-11** Have one person read the verses, but have the group join in on the bold section.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for **the kingdom of heaven** is theirs.

Blessed are those who mourn, for **they will be comforted**.

Blessed are the humble, for they will **inherit the earth**.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will **be filled**.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will **be shown mercy**.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will **see God**.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be **called sons of God**.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the **kingdom of heaven** is theirs.

#### **QUOTE: Darrell Johnson:**

In the Bible, the *heart* refers to the center of the human person, the home or seat of human feeling, thinking, and willing. The word *pure* in Greek is *katharos* (from which we developed the word cathartic). It means to be clean. It means unmixed, unalloyed., unadulterated. *Pure in heart*, therefore means to be ‘unmixed or unadulterated at the center of our being.’

#### WEEK 7 SERMON DISCUSSION:

##### **Week 7 Sermon Discussion Questions:**

This week the pastor discussed Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

- What did the pastor say it meant to pure in heart?
- What did the pastor say it meant that they will see God?
- How did the message change or enhance your understanding of this beatitude?
- Did the pastor say anything that was particularly meaningful or encouraging?
- How were you encouraged to apply this beatitude in your daily life or spiritual journey?
- Were there any questions or concerns that you had from the message?

## **THE GOOD LIFE VIDEO WEEK 7 (with Derwin Gray)**

Videos can be accessed at [www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos](http://www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos). This is a hidden page, please do not share it with others.

### **Watch The Good Life video 7 part 1:**

- Have you ever had an experience like Derwin where you were able to meet people you admire? Share your experience.
- If given a chance to spend a day with someone you admire, would you do it? Why or why not?
- Derwin said, "Those we admire we see higher." Why do we put people on a pedestal?
- What is the danger of giving people a higher influence in your life? Consider sharing personal examples.

**SEE GOD:** *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

### **Quote: Darrell Johnson**

How do we see God? Literally? Figuratively? Metaphorically? Is Jesus promising that the pure in heart will somehow recognize that there is a God? That this God is good? And that this God is for them? That this God is present to them? That this God has come down as Jesus and dwells with them?

- What does it mean for you to see God? How do you see God?
- Mother Teresa said that she saw god in the faces of the discarded infants and elderly. Where do you see God?
- Why is seeing God important to your faith and spiritual happiness?

### **Watch The Good Life video 7 part 2: *Happy are the God Seers***

- Derwin says that to see God, we must be pure. How can we, as impure creatures, ever see God?
- How does Jesus act on the cross, help us see God?
- What does he mean when he says, "Happiness is more about the happening of our relationship with of good, good Father?"
- How does our relationship with God help see God and understand his purpose for us.
- This section concludes with Derwin saying, "When we get to see God, we get to see our purpose, which is to live a life of incredible love." How does this change your perspective of personal happiness and purpose?

### **QUOTE: Derwin Gray**

**"A low view of God produces a low response of God. The higher we view God, the more we will praise and obey him because of who he is and what he has accomplished for us."**

- What does it mean to have a high view of God?
- Why is it important to have a high view of God?
- How do you develop a high view of God?

**Before you watch the last section of this week's video, read the story of Jesus and the adulterous woman.**

### **Read John 8: 2-11**

Jesus went to the temple again, and all the people were coming to him. He sat down and began to teach them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. "Teacher," they said to him, "this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They asked this to trap him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse him.

Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger. When they persisted in questioning him, he stood up and said to them, "The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her."

Then he stooped down again and continued writing on the ground. When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only he was left, with the woman in the center. When Jesus stood up, he said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, Lord," she answered.

"Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

### **Watch The Good Life video 7 part 3:**

- How did Derwin's retelling of this story help you understand the situation that Jesus found himself in?
- How did it help you understand the situation that we find ourselves in, as sinful people?
- Derwin says that Jesus is with this woman as he is with us in our brokenness. How does that offer you comfort?
- How did this woman see God?
- How might this interaction with Jesus changed her perspective of God?
- How can it help us see God more clearly?

### **Final Thought: Derwin Gray**

Grace is God in Christ being and doing what we can never be and do. As we trust Him, He influences our thoughts and actions. His will replaces ours. We grow in loving what he loves. We grow in thinking the way he thinks. We grow in loving his Father and loving people... The blood of Jesus cleanses us and empowers us to reflect Him in the world. This is what it looks like to see God.

### **WEEK 7 WRAP-UP**

#### **Read Matthew 5:3-11 Out loud together as a group.**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

**Closing Prayer:** How can the group pray for you and others to have a "blessed" (*makarios*) week?

Have a group member close in prayer or provide an opportunity for all members to pray for each other.

#### **For additional insight on being poor in spirit, read the following.**

- Chapter 7, 'Happy are the Pure' in *The Good Life*, by Derwin Gray
- Chapter 7 'See God? Really?' in *The Beatitudes* by Darrell Johnson