

What Type of People Should We Be – Part IV

Matthew 5:3-16

³ *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

⁵ *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

⁶ *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

⁸ ***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.***

⁹ ***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.***

¹⁰ *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.*

¹⁶ *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

Being poor in spirit, mourning, and living with a meek attitude are the responses to our need for the mercy of Christ. Being hungry and thirsting for righteousness is our pursuit of Christ. MERCY is the impulse that makes us sensitive to hurts in others and desires of alleviating those hurts/needs.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.

- The **heart** is the center of the personality. It includes the will, the affections, and the emotions.

"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander." **Matthew 15:19**

"¹² Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. ¹³ Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." **Psalms 19:12-14**

"My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways." **Proverbs 23:26**

- **Purity** of heart is to be single-minded and absorbed in the greatness and glory of the living God in his trinitarian wonder. It is to be ultimately sincere in our relationship with the Lord. It is to live for the glory of God.

"Our perception of God and his ways, as well as our fellowship with him, depends on our purity of heart.
D.A. Carson, *The Sermon on the Mount*, p. 26

“Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.”

Psalm 86:11

“Man’s true happiness is his perfection and true excellency. When any reasonable creature finds that his excellency and his joy are the same thing, then he has come to right and real happiness and not before.”

Jonathan Edwards, *Sermon: Blessed are the True in Heart*, p. 6

When we consider the unblushing promises of the gospels and the rewards promised, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” **C.S Lewis, *The Weight of Glory***

- The purity of heart which puts us in the path of **seeing God**, i.e. experiencing the fullness of God.

1. The believer sees the filthiness of sin and abhors it (i.e. godly sorrow and repentance).

“⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” **James 4:7-10**

2. There is a desire to put sin to death in the heart so that it is free from the power and “clouding nature” of sin. There is an understanding that unconfessed and unforsaken sin limits our usefulness and robs us of joy.
3. Therefore, there is a continual effort to delight in God by the embrace of “holy exercises” (Jonathan Edwards).
4. There is a wonderful understanding that God’s honoring glorification and my joy (blessed) are one and the same.

Questions for Discussion:

1. How do we retain our “saltiness” and our “light”? (Matthew 5:13-16)
2. What is the “summum bonum”? (the supreme good from which all others are derived) of the Christian faith?
3. Why is it important to “be careful that you do not rest in an observable external purity only”?
4. What are “holy exercises”?
5. How does “Grieve, mourn, and wail. Change your laughter to gloom and your joy to sorrow” (James 4:9) relate to purity of heart?