MATTHEW 5:8 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART - (SERMON MP3)

A story is told about a little boy who was asked by his teacher, "Where is your heart?" He responded, "My heart is where I sit down." The teacher was surprised and asked, "How did you get that idea?" The little boy responded with, "Every time I do something good, my grandma pats me there and says, 'Bless your little heart." Now in reality, the heart is the center of the entire personality, and in the 6th Beatitude, Jesus blesses the "pure in heart." If we want fellowship with God – "to see God" – than purity of heart is the indispensable prerequisite.

iiiuis	pei	isable prerequisite.
ŧ	**	What thoughts connected to the 6th Beatitude are affirmed in the following passages (Psalm 24:3; 73:1; Heb. 12:14)?
ŧ	**	According to the scriptures, what is the nature of the natural heart of man (Matt. 15:19; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 1:21; 2:5; Gen. 6:5)?
ŧ	**	When you think about the state of your heart, how would you describe it? Is it pure? Is it holy? Consider the following "heart" questions: What do you think about when your mind slips into neutral? How much sympathy does your heart have toward shady humor, immorality, or impurity? Wha do you want more than anything else?
ŧ	**	Someone once said, "To be pure in heart is to live one life and live it in the open." This requires a whole life, public and private, that is transparent before God and men. Are your words and actions accurate reflections of what is in your heart, or do you cover-up with hypocrisy?
To h over		e a pure heart means that your inner being is not diluted, defiled, or divided. You are wholly focused on, trusting in, and given God.
ŧ	**	How do people struggle with a diluted heart?
:	**	How do people struggle with a defiled heart?
ŧ	**	How do people struggle with a divided heart?
more	im	comes to measuring the degree of heart purity, we tend to measure ourselves alongside our fellow man. Find someone imoral, more dishonest, and more materialistic. Find someone with lower ethics, lower values, and lower standards. And then eside them and feel (if even for a brief moment) pure. Such comparison hides the truth.
ŧ	**	What standard did the Pharisee in Luke 18:11 use to make himself feel "pure" before God?
ŧ	**	How do the following passages clarify the true standard of purity that God expects (1Pet. 1:16; Matt. 5:48)?
ŧ	**	If we are struggling accepting the fact that we have impure hearts, whose life should we compare ourselves to?
		arisee's were consumed with external purity. They wanted to appear beautiful on the outside, but the inner man was full of ness. What analogies does Jesus use when rebuking them about this (Matt. 23:25-28)?
ŧ	**	Jesus emphasized heart-righteousness rather than mere rule-righteousness. He focused on the inward and moral, rather than the outward and ceremonial.
ŧ	**	According to (1Sam. 16:7), man looks on the but God looks on the

*	When we really understand what God wants, and who we are, what kind of prayer should we have before the Lord (Ps. 51:10)?				
**	"The aim of Jesus Christ is not to reform the manners of society, but to change the hearts of sinners like you and me. Jesus did not come into the world simply because we have some bad habits that need to be broken. He came into the world because we have such dirty hearts that need to be purified" – John Piper				
	Montgomery Boice writes, "You can try to cleanse your own heart; but whether you ever it may be, you will find that your heart is as corrupt at the end as at the beginning es."				
**	How have you tried to cleanse your own heart in the past? What efforts of self-reformation have	e you tried and	found ineffective?		
**	Read (Prov. 20:9) and admit that you can't purify your own heart. List 3 things you long for Chri	st to cleanse fr	om your heart.		
**	Read (1John 1:9; James 4:8) and spend some time right now in prayer about the areas of your life that need cleansing. Cast yourself upon the gracious arms of God and trust his forgiveness. Jesus "gave himself for us to purify for himself a people for his own possession" (Titus 2:14).				
The visio Dei, the vision of God is promised to those who have a pure heart. In one sense, Christians can see God now, but in an ultimate sense we wait for our glorification when we see him face to face.					
**	How can we "see God" now? Where is he visible to us at this stage of our spiritual journey? Pe 19:1; 29:3-4, 7; 119:9, 11; Job 42:5; Heb. 1:2-3; John 5:39).	rhaps these ver	rses will give you some ideas (Psaln		
**	When will we see God ultimately and perfectly? Perhaps these verses will help (Job 19:25-27;	1John 3:2).			
David was described as a man "after God's own heart." What kind of heart did David have? Write out a corresponding heart characteristic with each of the following passages. Name Prayer Need					
**	Psalm 9:1	Hamo	i iayoi Nood		
**	Psalm 19:14				
**	Psalm 27:8				
**	Psalm 57:7				
**	Psalm 28:7				
Do those psalms describe your heart? What most encouraged you and what most challenged you from the list above? On a scale of 1-10, rate yourself on the characteristic of "pure in heart" (you don't have to share this). Make an honest assessment of your heart before God.					
**	How can we live out the characteristic of "pure in heart" day to day?				
**	What makes it difficult to practice?				
**	What can you do to grow in this characteristic of "pure in heart?"				
**	Take some time to journal additional thoughts, insights, or convictions about the passage. You can also write down any questions you want to ask or discuss with your group.				