

SERMON STUDY NOTES

8th September 2019
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Blessed are the Pure in Heart

1. Matthew 5:8: “*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*” The word pure is used to describe metals that have been refined by fire until they are free from impurities. It also means to be single minded in our devotion to God. *How do you measure up on each of these purity scales?*
2. Pride is one of the subtlest sins because it produces spiritual blindness. Wrong behaviours can be so ingrained in our culture that we don't see them. The Pharisees were the most religious people. They knew the scriptures better than any other group, yet they failed to recognise the Christ to whom the scriptures pointed. *Discuss their blind spots and ours.*
3. James 1:28 urges us to *keep ourselves from being polluted by the world.* This pollution hijacks our mind & colours our vision. Anything that rules our thoughts and blocks out God is an idol. The 3 biggest idols (for men) are said to be 'girls, gold & glory', or 'possessions, power and position'. To be *pure in heart* means to not be corrupted by the values of the world. Do you struggle with any of these particular temptations?

4. God never commands us to do something without providing us power and the way to do it. In Philippians 2:12-13 we're encouraged to "*work out our salvation with fear and trembling*" and then God promises to "*work in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.*" We cooperate with God in our cleansing, as He works in us. We don't sit back and do nothing, or try to clean ourselves up on our own, but work together in partnership. Discuss

5. Job 31:1 '*I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a woman*'. Is this a realistic step to take today? How do we prevent polluted images, words & lyrics getting into our minds?

6. A couple purchased a new boat, but were having some serious problems. Under the boat, still strapped securely in place, was the trailer! Some people have one area of sin that they are still strapped to which continues to slowly pull them under? *Discuss. What is your 'besetting sin'?*

7. The last part of this Beatitude contains the promise: "*for they will see God.*" God reserves His intimate friendship for those who give Him their primary focus. The closer we get to God, the purer we will become and the clearer we will see Him. *Discuss. Where are you on this journey?*

8. David wrote in **Ps 119:58** "*I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise?*" Is your **desire to know God** as intense as David's. Has it ever been? If not why not?

9. Proverbs 13:20 “*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.*” Find a good friend who can hold you accountable. Do you have someone that you can confidentially discuss your weaknesses and failings with? **Pray for each other.**