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A Disciple's Heart Is ... Unwavering In It's Purpose
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

This is the sixth of the eight "blessed" statements, found at the beginning of the SOTM.

Again, these qualities are not given as requirements to be saved
They are given as characteristics of those already saved by God's grace
And they are given as things for us to aspire to; to be sanctified in

Purity of heart is the sixth distinguishing mark, or recognizable trait, of a true child of God. Once a man has seen the wretchedness in himself and in the world around him, he longs for the grand reversal of all things. As he waits for Christ's return, his passion for the coming kingdom grows.

This beatitude is really conveying two different but related things:

1. Purity of heart means purity from willful sin
Matthew 5:27-28 *You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

In contrast to Jewish traditions that overemphasized external ritual purity, Jesus taught that purity of heart was most important.

Our problem with purity is...we don't really want to be all that pure. We think impurity offers more, is more fun, and less painful.

2. Purity of heart also means purity of purpose

World-class level musicians and athletes impress us because of their talent. What qualities do these athletes have in common?

The result is a life that becomes increasingly single-minded, intentional. A **disciple's heart is unwavering in its purpose.**

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

Here Jesus is saying; **happy is the man whose heart is not divided but wholeheartedly devoted to God's glory.** He says; you are most likely to resemble me when your love for temporary things subsides because then you won't be distracted from your mission. It is a good thing when you become single-minded in Kingdom purpose, for then you will see God more clearly.

Jesus was pure of heart, and our salvation wouldn't have been accomplished at the cross if he had not been pure in his purpose

Luke 9:51-53 *When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.*

In **John 12:23-28** Jesus proclaims his unwavering purpose, calling Philip and Andrew to do the same.

“And Jesus answered them, the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life will lose it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But **for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.**”

But this may not necessarily describe all of us, at all times. We are easily distracted by people, places and things.

What is your "precious passion" that creeps in and distracts you from living a life solely for God's glory?

How can this purity of heart ever happen in us?

Be absolutely honest with God about your heart's condition.

Jeremiah 17:9 *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

What we are too quick to call "normal," God calls "deceitful" and "sick."

Take stock of what you will have to give up, in order to be pure of heart

Luke 14:28, 33 *For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?*

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Take a moment and ponder this. What might it mean for you to "renounce all that you have?"

Might it include conflict and broken relationships?

Not having what everyone else around you seems to have and enjoy?

Relinquishing all desires for power, control, comfort, and especially affirmation and applause from other people?

Could it mean giving up on lesser dreams and aspirations?

Might it mean actually having to sacrifice, and to live with loss?

Acknowledge that only God can make your heart pure for Him

Isaiah 50:7 *but the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.*

This is Isaiah speaking for himself and his prophetic ministry; but he is also referencing the Messiah, Jesus and his own ministry of reconciliation toward us.

James 4:8 *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Fill yourself with God's Word

John 15:3-4 *Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.*

Think about where you will be in eternity

John 1:18 *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

Revelation 22:3-5 *No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

Think what you will be in eternity

1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

Titus 2:11-14 *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*