

**Day 29**  
**The Real You...**

***Matthew 5:8 (NIV) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.***

Jesus is teaching us how to construct our lives so that our lives reflect and mirror God's Kingdom. Our lives must be built on Kingdom principles and Kingdom standards. We do not build like the world or even use the materials that the world system would use. Jesus gives us a different roadmap that leads to a blessed life. **A roadmap that starts with the work of the cross and follows completely the way of the cross. God's roadmap does not follow the roads well travelled.** It follows the only Way to a truly blessed life. There is no better quality of life. There is no higher form of purpose. There is no greater design to a blessed life than the one Jesus gives. Everything Jesus has said thus far has now led us to the next blessed statement He makes.

This simple sentence, ***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God,"*** shows that those who have chosen to build God's way have followed Jesus' directions because they are willing to build God's way. They have continued to experience the power and presence of God. That power is reflected in a heart that is changed. **The purification of our hearts starts the day we are willing to admit our poverty, mourn our sinfulness, embrace meekness as our identity, hunger and thirst for God's righteousness, and represent Jesus to others with a heart of continual mercy.** Only then can our heart reflect the purity that is needed. Possessing a pure heart can only be possible if we are willing to go through the process that God requires.

Jesus is saying that the state in which our hearts are in, is of primary importance to Him. Our faith is alive because we now have a life giving relationship with the Father. That faith is birthed by understanding the grace that we have been offered through what Jesus did for us. It is not simply obeying a preset of rules and completely disregarding what goes on inside of us. Religion is about obeying a preset bunch of rules and regulations, but God's Word is very clear that a relationship with God is a matter of the heart. **It's a matter of the Heart because, to God, our hearts matter.** Our hearts must be fully engaged in loving God and loving others. **We do not just do the right things; we do it for the right reasons.** We love God with all our heart, all our mind, and all our strength, and we love others in the same way. Our hearts must always be engaged; meaning, every action we take, is a matter of the heart. Jesus emphasizes our hearts because He knows that our hearts determine the direction, values and eventual pursuits of our lives. The Proverbs writer understood it: ***"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."*** (Proverbs 4:23 NLT)

**The highest priority in our lives should be to guard our hearts. We have to diligently guard our own hearts. It is not simply one of our priorities; it is our main priority.** Because from our hearts, everything that is either good or bad, will be birthed. Limiting what a person can do outwardly does not change who that person is inwardly. Behavior flows from the inward nature of an individual. So, when Jesus said, ***"Blessed are the pure in heart..."*** He was emphasizing that we all need to be right on the inside.

The Message Bible puts it like this: ***"You are blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world"***; ordering my inside world, by setting my heart and mind on what God wants for me. I think all of us realize by this stage that trying to fool God is absolutely futile. Trying to fool others, we might succeed for a short period of time. You know the saying, ***"You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all of the time."*** We might be able to fool people by pretending to be something we are not. We might be able to

appear like we are walking with God when we are not. But God is not fooled. And if we are honest with ourselves and are not in a state of self-deception, we know that God knows and we know.

Throughout Scripture, there is clear evidence that our hearts matter and that God knows the absolute truth about what is in our hearts. When the Lord speaks to Samuel about anointing a new king in place of Saul, Samuel is impressed by the looks of David's brother Eliab. He sure looked like a king: ***"But the Lord told him, 'Samuel, don't think Eliab is the one just because he's tall and handsome. He isn't the one I've chosen. People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts.'"*** (1 Samuel 16:7 CEV)

The Lord told Samuel, "People judge by the obvious; I judge by what is hidden." It is clear that God looks past outward behavior and outward appearance to the real issue: the condition of our hearts. Why? **Because what is hidden is the true character, nature and eventual destiny of a person. Jesus is not impressed with an outward expression of a so-called belief. He looks beneath the surface to see what is in a person's heart.** We see this in the Gospel of John after Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine and the miraculous signs that He performed in Jerusalem during the Passover celebration. ***"Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. 24 But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. 25 No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart."*** (John 2:23 NLT)

**What a profound statement. People began to trust in Jesus, but Jesus did not trust them!** Because Jesus knows, all too well, the very nature of the human heart. Here is the good news: Jesus knows your heart. Here is the bad news: Jesus still knows your heart. You don't have to explain yourself to Jesus; He knows you. You don't have to tell Him what you love; He knows what you really love. You don't have to declare your commitments to Him; He knows exactly what your heart longs for, yearns for, desires above all else. Jesus knows the real you! He knows the real you because He knows your heart. You say you trust Jesus, but does Jesus trust you?

The writer of Hebrews tells us that no one will see God without holiness. We are being told to be holy like God is holy. So Jesus places an incredible importance on this sixth beatitude and reminds us that it is the pure in heart that will see God. Why are our hearts so important? Because your heart is the real you. The proverb writer puts it so succinctly: ***"As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person."*** (Proverbs 27:19 NLT) My paraphrase for this verse is: *"As a mirror shows your face, so your heart reveals the real you."*

Your heart will determine what you pursue and what you value. Your heart will also determine the very direction of your life. Nothing is more important than knowing your heart, because if you know your heart, you know yourself. Who are you really? Your heart reflects the real you. Your heart is you! What does your heart say about you?

#### **Reflection and Prayer:**

- **Take a few moments; reflect on where you find yourself spiritually and just be still for a moment before the Lord.**
- **Pray this prayer as you start this week's devotions:**  
"Lord, thank You that You are teaching me to live a blessed life. I recognize my own spiritual poverty and I realize I cannot help myself. But You stepped in through Jesus and rescued me from the depravity of sin and gave me comfort and a brand new life. Jesus, thank You for Your example

of meekness and the powerful weapon that it is in my spiritual arsenal. Help me to use it diligently and wisely. I humble myself before You and I hunger and thirst to live my life for Your glory and Your honor. My soul longs for You and my heart finds its rest only in Your presence. Thank you that You have made me a dispenser of your mercy. Because You have been merciful to me, I can be merciful to others. Help me to never forget what You have done for me. Even though I deserve judgment, You gave me mercy. Lord, You know me inside and out; there is no hiding, pretending or role-playing before You. You know me better than I know myself. My heart reveals the real me, but sometimes I don't even know my own heart. As I start this week to learn about having a pure heart, make me aware of any dysfunction in me. Help me to walk in truth and apply Your grace. But above all, create a pure heart in me. I not only want to trust You, but I want You to be able to trust me, because You truly know me. Thank You for loving me as I am, but not leaving me the same. Change my heart! Remind me daily to guard my heart and place my complete trust in You. Teach me, Lord, and purify my heart. In Jesus' Name I pray, amen.