

- PRAY
- READ Matthew 4:12-5:12

Theme of Matthew: "Behold your King is coming to you" (Zech.9:9; Mt.21:4-5)

Theme of the Beatitudes: Christ's Portrait of His People (John Stott)

Theme of the Sermon on the Mount: Life Styles of the Rich and Famous

### CHARTING THE COURSE FOR THIS EVENING:

- Review
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God

**NOTE:** The first four beatitudes begin with the Greek letter "p" (π):

- πτωχοι τω πνεύματι ("poor in spirit")
- πενθοοντες ("mourn")
- πραεις ("meek/gentle")
- πεινυοντες ("hunger")

pure in heart (v.8; **Psalm 24:3-4**; 51:6,10; **73:1,13**; 1 Tim.1:5; 2 Tim.2:22; James 4:8) – The Greek word for *pure* is *katharos* from which comes the English word catharsis. The Latin translation of *katharos* is *castus*, from which we get the English word *chaste* (*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary* [Mt 5:9]).

HEART - the control center of a person (well spring of life [Prov.4:23]). The heart determines the emotions, thoughts, will, and a person's relationship to God. Because the heart is the control center of a person, it reveals their true nature (Prov.27:19; Matthew 12:33-35).

Pure in heart = undivided allegiance, single-minded devotion. There is no foothold we have given to the devil, the world, or our own sinful lusts.

An antonym for "pure in heart" is "\_\_\_\_\_ heart." (Psalm 12:2)

## ILLUSTRATING PURE IN HEART

**Old Testament Background** (Psalm 17:3-5,15; 24:3-4; 73; 119:9-10)

**Pure in heart illustrated in Matthew's Gospel** (Matthew 5:27-28; 6:21; 8:2-4; 12:34-35; 15:2,7-8,18-19).

A flash of singer Janet Jackson's right breast during a halftime Super Bowl performance has become the most-searched image in Internet history, online companies said today. On Monday, Jackson received 60 times as many searches than perennial chart topper, the "Paris Hilton sex tape," and 80 times as many as singer Britney Spears.

- *Where does your mind wander when you have nothing else to think about?*

- *To what or to whom do you pay consistent allegiance? (What comes first: God or boss? God or spouse? God or children? God or entertainment? God or money?)*
- *If your deep reflections and feelings of this past week were to be painted and displayed in a museum, what would you be ashamed of?*

see God (v.8; Psalm 27:4; 63:3; cf. Mt.18:10; John 3:3) – Seeing God is something future and present. In the future, every overcomer will behold God in the Person of the Lamb and in the work of the new heavens and the new earth (Rev.22:4). Seeing God probably includes privileged access before His throne of grace. Access to God in relationship to purity of life is a common theme throughout Scripture (**Psalm 4:1,3; 66:18-20; Isaiah 1:15-17; 1 Tim.2:8; James 4:8**).

## SEEING GOD IN MATTHEW’S GOSPEL (Matthew 18:10)

*In what sense do the angels see the face of the Father? (Matthew 18:10)*

- The Bible says that no one has or can see God (Ex.33:20-23; John 1:18; 1 Tim.6:15,16; 1 John 4:12; cf. Ex.3:6; 20:19). Paul says the Sovereign King of kings and Lord of lords “dwells in unapproachable light” and that “no man has seen or can see Him” (1 Tim.6:16).
- On the other hand, the Bible speaks of people who have seen or will see God: Christ, who is God (John 6:46), Job (Job 42:5,6), Jacob (Gen.32:30), Moses (Ex.24:2; 33:11), Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and the seventy elders (Ex.24:10), Manoah (Judges 13:22), Isaiah (Isa.6:5; cf. John 12:41), Ezekiel (Ezek.1:26-28), Daniel (Dan.7:9,10), John (Rev.4:2-5) and believers (Mt.5:8; 1 Cor.13:12; 1 Jn.3:2; Rev.22:4).

According to U. S. News & World Report, Americans spent no more than \$10 million on pornography in 1973. By 1999, however, they were spending \$10 billion a year – a one thousand times increase. (BreakPoint with Charles Colson).

*How can both be true? (Matthew 17:1-5; John 1:18; 14:7-11; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 2:9).*

While we have many more inquisitive questions as to the exact nature of the beatific vision we agree with Calvin’s comments on 1 Tim.6:16,

[So] that our curiosity may not be beyond measure, let us always remember, that the manner of living is of more importance in this inquiry than the manner of speaking. At the same time, let us remember the judicious caution which Augustine gives us, to be on our guard lest, while we are keenly disputing how God can be seen, we lose both peace and sanctification, without which no man can ever see God [**Heb.12:14**] (Calvin, John. *Calvin’s Commentaries: 1 Timothy*).

*How does living in our society make “purity of heart” difficult?*

*How does a non-Christian become pure in heart (Acts 15:9)?*

*How does a Christian grow in purity of heart (John 15:3; James 4:8)?*

## FOR NEXT WEEK: REREAD MATTHEW 5

*What is the meaning of the seventh and eighth beatitude? (Matthew 5:9-10)*

