**PURSUE (The Beatitudes) – Wk 5 – Pure Heart**

**Are you curious what I have in this bag…?**

**We are going through Jesus Beatitudes = (Latin beatus) Blessings.**

**They describe a truly God blessed life. A deep state of bliss.**

**There’s was a life of oppression, manipulation, unreliable politicians, and generational racial hatred. With this Jesus walks up a hill near the Sea of Galilee to share a kingdom perspective of life.**

**Jesus challenges their views on everything.**

**Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the (poor) in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. / 5:4 Blessed are those who (mourn), for they will be comforted. / 5:5 Blessed are the (meek), for they will inherit the earth. / 5:6 Blessed are those who (hunger and thirst) for righteousness, for they will be filled. / 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, (compassion) for they will be shown mercy.**

**The beatitudes are given together - a intentional order:**

**Recognize need (1) brokenness (2) submission (3) pursue God’s will (4) walk it out in compassion (5) - Jesus then says, to keep an eye on your heart.**

**Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

**What we learn from this beatitude on the surface is:**

* **Jesus is very concerned with your heart. Why?**

**What is the heart? Is it this? Have a real heart**

**The heart here is not a muscle – but what is invisible.**

**It is what is at the root of who you are.**

**The heart (Karida – “cardiac”) = in the bible represents our will - the inner person, motives, attitudes, and choices.**

**Prov. 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**

**The “heart” is a symbol for the control center of our life.**

**There are two types of hearts – which one are you?**

**1 - A rebellious heart - apart from Christ**

**Is deceitful, emotionally driven, and selfish. Our choices and desires act selfishly and cause pain and suffering. (Romans 1:21,25)**

**Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

**Matt 15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.**

**Jesus speaks of hearts that are hardened and therefore do not understand (Mark 6:52) Our heart can affect our ears & spirit.**

**Referring to the hardened rebellious hearts of the religious leaders - Matthew 23:27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within (the heart) are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**

**Jeremiah 17:9 The (rebellious) heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (a heart unsubmitted to GOD, is wicked)**

**2 - A surrendered heart - in submission to Christ**

**Produces a well spring of life. A pure heart (in Christ) results in a new will and healthy decisions.**

**Matthew 12:33 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers! (religious hypocrites) How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (What is in your heart, will come out.) 35 The good person out of his good treasure (the heart) brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure (the heart) brings forth evil.**

**A heart in submission to the LORD – is one that speaks and makes decisions determined to honor & please God.**

**Psalm 37:4** **Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (A pure heart – is followed by blessing.)**

**Q - What is your heart condition?**

**What we learn from this beatitude on the surface is:**

* **Jesus is not about behavior modification, but inner transformation**

**Jesus goal is not to reform society, but to see hearts (what make us tick) transformed.**

**Speaking again to the hypocrites - Matthew 23:25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, (the heart) that the outside also may be clean.**

**Like a coffee mug outside looks good – until you see inside…**

**God see in our heart what others cannot see - 1 Sam 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”**

**Jesus in the sermon on the mount - Matthew 5:27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

**The outside may look great - but inside there may still be sin, impurity, and deceit in your heart. The heart is where it starts.**

**Our heart matters to Jesus – it is the steering wheel of our actions, words, attitude, and choices. That is why Jesus is not about behavior modification, but an inner transformation.**

**What we learn from this beatitude on the surface is:**

* **Jesus did not come to fix habit problems, but to fix heart problems**

**Jesus gives a little sewing tip - Mark 2:21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, and a worse tear will result. (explain - Sewing boring, then talks about wine and gets their attention back) 22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins.”**

**Wineskins: Skin of a goat, tied up – filled w/ wine - as it ages, ferments, releases gases and expands the wineskin – usable once or twice because it will stop expanding and burst.**

**The wineskin is our heart – Jesus is the new wine**

**Jesus is saying - I’m like new wine – you’re like an old wineskin. I don’t fit your paradigm I am bigger than that.**

* **A quick Jesus patch over your issue… will not work**
* **Just adding some Jesus to your life… will not work**

**Jesus says - I am not a fix or patch for your problems - I will burst your life – I will ruin your life… if you are not all in. Your old wine skin (your heart) life has got to be changed out.**

**You see, the world tries to alleviate and soften the causes of heart problems. Child abuse, loneliness, adultery, poverty, addiction, broken homes, violence, school shootings, corruption, war…**

**The problem is not just a sin, a crime problem, a gun problem, it is a heart problem. We are heart sick. These are heart attacks**

**A fundamental problem - We attempt to solve life’s problems without getting to the root. We simply treat the symptoms. (like cold medicines)**

**That’s why the gospel message is so important to individual, society, and the world. Jesus is the only hope for the world!**

**Humanitarian work cannot bring freedom, peace, or God’s true blessing. Unless we fix the heart – the symptoms will never go away.**

**Can you imagine what blessings would come if people were pure in heart? Society’s changed, nations healed, families restores.**

**You want to see God in your family, your marriage, your school, your job, our country, in the world? Deal with the heart problem.**

**Q – Are you dealing with the heart or the symptoms.**

**Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

**What does it mean to have a pure heart?**

**Pure means “to be cleansed from dirt & filth” – a clean heart. Innocent of evil. Jesus says the center of our will and choices needs to be pure.**

**A pure heart seeks to have a single-minded devotion to God**

**An undivided heart - Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

**This then affects our will and choices – in every area of life.**

**We are going to take a closer look at what it means to have a pure heart in our small groups this week. Don’t miss it.**

**How is it possible for anyone to be pure in heart?**

**If we all have heart problems. Who then can be saved?**

**Matthew 19 (rich young rule) 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?” 26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”**

* **Get a heart exam**

**Psalm 26:2 Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;**

**Get on the table (first 4 beatitudes) humbly go to the great physician. Listen to the HS -**

**Psalm 139:23** **Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

**What is your heart condition? Rebellious or Surrendered.**

**Some of you need a spiritual Defibrillator - let God jump start (convict) your heart. What are your vital signs telling you?**

* **Get a new heart**

**Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (David in a moment of confrontation, called out to God) (Acts 15:9)**

**How does one gain a pure heart? A pure heart is one who is washed clean by the grace of God through Jesus Christ.**

**Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.**

**Jesus in John 3 – refers this to being born again.**

**Some have a knowledge or information about the truth, but it never makes it to the heart. (2 Tim 3:7).**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!**

**Are you ready for your heart transplant? It’s time.**

**Get a heart exam – get a new heart – then**

* **Exercise your heart – do heart healthy things**

**It begins with salvation thru Jesus, when God gives us a “new heart” – then it continues through spiritual growth as we follow Christ.**

**Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

**Learning to live by the will of God changes the way we think and results in a change in the way we make choices.**

**As the light of the word reveals impurities in our heart, we deal with them and change - and our hearts grow more and more pure.**

**More on this in the Life Teams this week.**

The blessing of this is – you will see God

**What does that mean? How will you see God?**

**The pure in heart will see God – in this life as His presence is made known to us. (Romans 1, Job 19:26, Psalm 24:1-4, Psalm 73:1)**

**You will see him move in your life – feel him move in your life - In you – around you – and through you.**

**One sees the stars and thinks… the pure in heart see the hand of God.**

**One sees nature and wonders… the PIH see the creators design**

**Awestruck by his astounding beauty and glory of his creation**

**One sees babies and… PIH see the image of God in each fingerprint**

**One sees the scripture confused… PIH see a love letter from a Father**

**One hears worship music… PIH see our passionate weak and frail attempts to declare his might and glory.**

**One sees the tragedy and… the PIH see a sovereign God at work**

**What at do you see? Only the pure in heart will see God.**

**The pure in heart will see God – in the afterlife welcomed into His very presence (Psalm 17:15, Rev 22:3-4, 1 John 3:2)**

**ON that day – there are those who will face Jesus and only see wrath – anger – filled with fear and anger, because of their rebellious heart. But the pure in heart will see a savior - loving master - merciful God.**

**Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

**Q - Do you want to see God?**