

"Is My Heart Pure?"

Matthew 5:8

A television broadcast sermon delivered

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

By

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Our message today will come from Matthew chapter five. If you would like to turn there in your Bible, I'll give you a second to find Matthew chapter five, and I would like to go ahead and tell you the title of this message. The title is, Is My Heart Pure? Is My Heart Pure? I pray that this will be an enlightening message. I pray this will be a helpful message. I pray this will be a comforting message, but I pray that we can do some soul searching and some examining of ourselves, and I pray we will be able to find the answer to this question individually. I ask myself this and you ask yourself this question. Is my heart pure? Is my heart pure? Our message will come from Matthew 5, verse eight, which says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Blessed, he's telling us who the blessed are. He said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, the pure in heart. They are the ones who are going to see God." Now I wanna start by stating this truth after giving you the title of this message, which is a question, is my heart pure? I wanna start by stating the truth that only Christ is pure. Only Christ is pure in heart. Only Christ has a pure heart. Men and women read this, they read Matthew 5, verse eight. "Blessed are the pure in heart. They shall see God." Men and women read that and they think, "Oh, wow, I need to be more pure. If I wanna see God, I guess I need to be more pure in heart, more pure in mind, more pure in body," which is impossible with man. Man is not pure. Man is sin. That's what the flesh of man is. That's what the heart of man is, is deceitful, corrupt. That's what the scripture says about it. So only Christ truly is pure in heart, and the scripture has made it very clear that only the pure in heart are going to see God. That's important to understand. Over in Psalm 24, this is what verses three through five say in Psalm 24. "Who shall

ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall stand in his holy place?" Here's the answer. "He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." That's what it's gonna take. That is what it's going to take. And as we search the scriptures, we will see that Christ is the only one who will ever fit that description. Christ is the only one. Only Christ was tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Only Christ. For the salvation of his people, it says that Christ was made to be the sin of his people. He did bear their sins in his own body on the tree, but he himself knew no sin. He knew no sin. He was the only spotless, perfect, pure man that ever walked this earth. That's what the word pure means. It means morally clean, free from corruption, blameless, innocent. That only describes the Lord Jesus Christ. Only Christ was pure before God. That means only he is worthy to ascend into the hill of the Lord. Only him. Only him. He's the only one worthy. Even in glory, everything there cries, "Thou art worthy. You're the worthy one." But in what he accomplished for his people, in what Christ came and accomplished for his people, this is what the scripture has to say about them, his people who are in him, all right? If you'd like to see 1 Corinthians chapter six, this is what verses nine to 11 say. 1 Corinthians 6, verse nine. It says, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" That means sinners are not welcome. "Be not deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God." That just described all men and women by nature. Verse 11 says, "And such were some of you." But he said, "You are washed." That's what makes the difference. He said you are washed, but you are sanctified. You are set apart by God's Holy Spirit. But you are justified. That means declared innocent in a court of law. If a judge says you were justified in your actions, that means no wrongdoing was done. That was a justified action. And he said, "Such were some of you, but you're washed in the blood of Christ, but you're sanctified, but you're justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." What he's saying is the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed you from all of your sin. Sinners cannot enter in. That's why Christ washed us from our sins in his own blood and made his people clean. In him, in his payment, in his washing, this is what the scripture says. It says we, his people, if we are his people, we are as pure as he is in him, in what he did, in what he accomplished, in his blood, in his payment. This is what the scripture says. It says, "As he is, so are we in him." Only in him, and even though we can't physically see it yet in this body of death, as the Apostle Paul said, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" We can't see this purity that we have in Christ because we're still

living in it, but in Christ, God the Father has declared it to be so. He said, "You are washed. You're clean. You're pure." As he is, so are you, and here's the thing about it. If God has declared that, that's so, it's so. If God says that's the way it is, that's the way it is. If he says Christ accomplished the work that he came to do in purifying and in perfecting his people, then Christ accomplished the work that he came to do in purifying and perfecting his people. If God said it, it's so. That's it. That's how it is. If you'd like to turn with me to 1 John chapter three, it says in 1 John 3, verse one, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God. Therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. There's a difference in those who belong to Christ and those who do not belong to Christ." Verse two says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God," those whom the Father gave to Christ, and Christ came and accomplished all of this for. "Now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him. For we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him, purified himself, even as he is pure." Now listen to this. It says, "Whosoever committed sin transgresseth also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law, and you know that he was manifested to take away our sins, and in him is no sin." The soul that's in Christ, there's no sin in Christ. Verse six says, "Whosoever abideth in him, stays in him, sinneth not. Whosoever sinneth has not seen him, neither known him." And down in verse nine it says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." Now when Christ removed the sin of his people from them, that's what he accomplished for them. He accomplished a purity. He accomplished a washing. He accomplished a spotlessness before God. When he removed the sin of his people from them, he removed the sin from them, not just in theory, not just in doctrine, in reality. The reason he died is because he bore that very sin away from them into himself, and he truly did purge his people from their sins, and that's what God's people experience in Christ. They're still experiencing sin in the flesh because they're carrying around sinful flesh and they're still committing sins, and that's what is so hard for people to understand. It's so hard for me to understand. Christ removed all the sins of his people from the cradle to the grave. People wonder, "Well, if Christ saved me from my sins, why am I still committing sin?" Here's the reason why. This sinful flesh will be sinful flesh until we lay it down in a grave, and we're sinners from the cradle to the grave. As babies, we were sinners, and when we lay down this flesh, we're gonna lay down sinful flesh. We're gonna sin today, we're gonna sin tomorrow, but Christ died for all the sins of his people. He died for the sins that we have committed in our past. He died for the sins we are committing right now. He died for the sins that we're

about to commit in just a moment, the sinful thoughts, the sinful feelings, the sinful actions. He died for our sins. His work of redeeming us from our sin, it's finished, all of it, all of it. And in him, in his work, the scripture says, right now, we belong to God as his children. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God," verse two said. We are accepted in the beloved, accepted in Christ, and as he is, that's what he's made us to be. One day soon we'll see it. It does not yet appear what we shall be, but as soon as we see him, these bodies will be changed, and will be just like him. As pure as his heart is, that's how pure our hearts are in him. That's good news, isn't it? So he's the only one worthy to enter into heaven. He's the only one. He gets the glory, he gets the credit. We are only made worthy in him, only in him, and that worthiness is something that we will experience once our time in this flesh is done. Now with that being said, there is an evidence of this pure heart that Christ has created in his people. There is an evidence, even though that pureness is not physically seen. There is a physical evidence of the fact that it's there, and I wanna show you what it is. If you'll go with me back to Matthew 5, Matthew 5, verse eight. It says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the pure in heart." Now I just told you that the word pure means morally clean, free from corruption, blameless, and innocent, and it does mean that. That's what it means, and that's how we stand before God, in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. But the definition continues. Listen to the rest of it. It goes on to say, and this is how it describes a believer in this life. This is the evidence of what Christ has done for his people, okay? The word pure, that definition goes on to mean free from what is false. Honest, genuine, sincere. That's what the word means. Free from what is false. Honest, genuine, sincere. Our Lord said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, the honest, the truthful, the sincere. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." They are the ones who are going to get to see God in mercy, in love, in acceptance. Now, what does that look like? In this flesh, what is a pure heart before God? What is honesty before God? What is truthfulness before God? What does that look like? Turn with me if you would to Psalm 51, and I'll show it to you. Psalm 51, David right here cries in verse one. "Have mercy upon me, O God." This is honesty, this is truthfulness. He said, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions." He said in verse two, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me." He's crying, "I'm a sinner. I'm a sinner before you. I'm begging you for mercy. I'm begging for you to blot out my transgressions and cover my sins in your blood, because I'm nothing but a wretched sinner before you." He went on in verse four to say, "Against thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight, that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and

be clear when you judge." Whatever you do, you're right in doing it. That's what he said. I'm a sinner before you. I'm nothing but a sinner before you, and I'm begging for mercy, because if you put me in hell, you are just and right in doing it. Now, I'm gonna tell you, that is honesty before God. I'm a sinner and I acknowledge that before him, and you are, too, because the scripture says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and we need mercy, and the evidence of the fact that God has shown mercy to us and created a pure heart in us is this. We will be honest before him. We will be truthful before him. And that is truthfulness, truthfulness before God. Verse five, David went on to say, "Behold I was shaped in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." What he's saying is, sin is what I am. It's not just what I do. I was made in sin. I was created in sin. Verse six, he said, "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts, truth in the heart, and in the hidden part, thou shall make me to know wisdom." He said in verse seven, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean." Hyssop was a bush, like a spongy bush that they used to dip in blood, and they would sprinkle that blood on the mercy seat, crying out to God to have mercy according to his covenant. And David's saying, "Dip that hyssop in blood and cover me in blood." Verse seven, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean. Wash me, and I'll be whiter than snow." That is genuine sincerity. That is genuine sincerity. That right there is not hypocrisy. False religion is so full of hypocrisy. The word hypocrite means an actor. It means we're acting. We're putting on a show for people. That's a hypocrite, and that's what false religion is. It's men and women trying to act like something that they're not, and trying to be something that they're not, and trying to convince other men that they're something that they're not, trying to trick God into thinking that they're something that they're not. That's hypocrisy. It's time we get honest before God. It's time we have some true sincerity before God, because he sees it all anyway, and the only hope we have if we wanna see him in love and mercy is we need a pure heart before him. We need to be crying out to him for that mercy. That is pure honesty. Lord, I need mercy. I need mercy from you. Turn with me if you would to Romans 7, Romans 7, verse 14. This is the Apostle Paul speaking in honesty. This is a pure heart right here. Romans 7, verse 14. He said, "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin." This is what God's apostle said. You know the one that people so many people call Saint Paul? He said, "We know that the law is spiritual, the law is good," but he said, "I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do, I allow not." I don't know why I do what I do. He said, "For what I would, that do I not. What I wish I did, what I want to do, I don't do it." But he said, "What I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it's good." If I'm breaking the law, I say I'm in the wrong and God's law is in the right. Verse 17. "Now then it is no more I

that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." That's the new man in Paul crying. God has created a new creation in here, but I'm struggling with this sin that I'm still dragging around. Verse 18. "For I know that in me," that is in my flesh, "dwelleth no good thing. For to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not." The law says, you read it, read the scripture. Paul wrote it. Do good, do good. This is the will of God concerning you. Sin not. Paul said, "I acknowledge that. I just cannot find a way to accomplish it." Verse 19, "For the good that I would, I do not, But the evil which I would not, that's what I do." He said, "I'm a sinner." Not excusing it. He's the one who said, do we excuse these things? God forbid. Verse 20. "Now if I do that I would not is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me." He said, "No matter what I do, it's ruined by sin." Verse 22, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man, but I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." He said, "Oh, wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" That is an honest heart before God. That is truthfulness before God. That Pharisee in the temple in Luke 18 was trying to tell God how pure he was. That's what he was trying to do. You read it sometime, Luke 18. There's a Pharisee and a publican in the temple, and that Pharisee was saying, "God, just look at how pure I am. I do this and I don't do that," and he was lying through his teeth. That's what he was doing. If a man says he doesn't have sin, he deceives himself, and he's calling God a liar. But that publican smote upon his breast, crying, "God, be merciful to me. I'm a sinner." And God said, "Justified. He's the justified one. That's pure honesty, that is truthfulness before me," and God said, "That's what I'll accept right there. Honesty, pure, pure truthfulness." He said, "A broken and a contract heart, I will hear. A proud one, never, but an honest, sincere, genuine confession of what a sinner is before me." He said, "I'll receive that. I'll hear that. I'll receive that." In 1 John chapter one, verse five, it says, 1 John 1, verse five. "This then is the message which we have heard of him and declare unto you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all." God is honest light, honesty, sincerity, truth, no lie, no darkness. Verse six, "If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth." We're lying and we're not telling the truth. Verse seven, "But if we walk in the light," if we walk in truth, and in honesty and in sincerity, "As he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." We have sin. He's not talking about sinlessness. We have it in this flesh. We have honesty over that sin in this flesh. He went on to say in verse eight, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he's faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us

from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us." He said, there is only one confession that's pure. That's what he's saying right here, only one. There's only one thing that we can confess to God about ourselves that is the purity of truth, and it's this. God, be merciful to me. I'm a sinner. I am a sinner. That is a pure heart before God. That is pure honesty before God. A true, honest, pure heart before God will be the one that claims only Christ's heart to be pure before God. It will be the one that claims Christ's heart for his very own. Lord, I don't come to you in my heart at all. I come in Christ's heart. I come in his purity. That's a sinner's only hope before God, and that's the evidence that a sinner has received hope from God. There will be a pure heart. If God has given us that genuine, sincere heart of truth before him, we are a blessed people. If God has done that, we are a blessed people, and I'll tell you why. It is the evidence that we are among the ones who are going to get to see him. All men and women are going to go stand before God. Some are gonna stand there in Christ in love and acceptance, and some are gonna stand there outside of Christ in judgment and condemnation. And if we want to be among the ones who will be accepted and received, if we wanna be among the ones who will stand in that holy place, then if God has given us that pure heart, that Christ, only Christ is worthy and I need mercy from you in the covering of his blood, that's the evidence that you have received it. I have received it, and we will stand with him. Our text said, "Blessed are the pure in heart. They will see God. They shall see God." May God make it to be so.