

Beatitudes 4... Sermon on the Mount

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

What does “heart” mean in this context?

What does being “pure in heart” mean to you?

What’s the difference between being outwardly pure and being pure in heart?

How can our hearts become 100 percent pure? Is anyone blessed under this beatitude?

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” *Romans 3:23*

kataros – Greek word that can be translated as either “clean” or “pure”

Is a Christian someone whose heart is open to being emptied of what is unclean, and purged of what no longer belongs?

“Who is pure in heart? Only those who have surrendered their hearts completely to Jesus that he may reign in them alone. Only those whose hearts are undefiled by their own evil – and by their own virtues too.” – *Bonhoeffer*

Mary and Martha: Luke 10:38-42 (p. 1613)

Besides Jesus, who are the only other two humans in the Bible who could, at one time, be called truly pure of heart?

What is the appeal of an impure heart?

What makes seeking a pure heart a more desirable path?

“Only they [the pure in heart] will see God, who in this life have looked solely unto Jesus Christ, the Son of God. For then their hearts are free from all defiling phantasies and are not distracted by conflicting desires and intentions. They are wholly absorbed by the contemplation of God. They shall see God, whose hearts have become a reflection of the image of Jesus Christ.” – *Bonhoeffer*

How do we become pure in heart?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

What does this *not* say?

- Those who have peace or are peaceable...
- Those who prefer or love peace...
- Those who wish for peace...

Does that mean having peace is a bad thing?

“The followers of Jesus have been called to peace. When he called them they found their peace, for he is their peace. But now they are told that they must not only have peace but make it.” – *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

What is peace? Is it simply the opposite of war?

Shalom: “The Hebrew word for peace, shalom (שלום) is derived from a root denoting wholeness or completeness, and its frame of reference throughout Jewish literature is bound up with the notion of shelemut, perfection.” – *myjewishlearning.com*

Pax Romana

- More than 200 years beginning with Emperor Augustus
- No major wars in the known world

Was Pax Romana real for all? (Is there peace at home if a father threatens everyone with violence?)

What is truth? John 18:37-38a (p. 1683)

How do we determine truth?

What is justice? Is it simply fairness?

Matthew 25:31-46 (p. 1542)

What does “injustice” look like?

What is the connection between peace, truth and justice?

“No justice, no peace!”

Do we only think about peace after war begins?

In thinking about the previous Beatitudes, who benefits from true peace?

“The peacemakers will carry the cross with their Lord, for it was on the cross that peace was made. Now that they are partners in Christ’s work of reconciliation, they are called the sons of God as he is the Son of God.” – *Bonhoeffer*