



Pure in Heart

No divided loyalties

Introduction

- Fully devoted to loving God with every part of our life.
- Purity in heart means everything.
- Buying vegetables. How do you choose?

Purity Outline

- God’s Heart Examination (1 Sam 16:7-13)
- The Pure Heart (Mat 5:8)

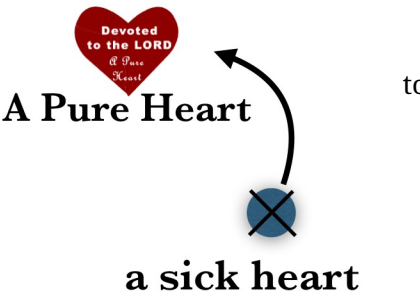


A) God’s Heart Examination (1 Sam 16:7-13)

“Now the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons.” But Samuel said, “How can I go? When Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD’” (1 Sam 16:1, 2).

- How would you choose a king?
And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these” (1 Sam 16:4-10).
- Who did Samuel choose? Samuel chose someone God didn’t!
“And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are these all the children?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep.”
- The big question, then, is how does God look at our own heart?

- “But the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam 16:3).
The devoted and singular of heart that disregards distractions which call them away from their main mission supremely love God.
- Our challenge: A bigger question is how do we go from a sick heart to a pure heart?
“The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?” (Jer 17:9)



“Jesus has said, ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God’” (Matthew 5:8).

B) The Pure Heart (Mat 5:8)

The Danger: What happens to those not pure in heart

- Darkened in their heart
“Darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart” (Eph 4:18).
- Caution with your heart (affections)

“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life” (Pr 4:23).

“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons” (Dt 4:9).

What does ‘pure in heart’ mean?

- Jesus starts where we are at. (Don’t hide)

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders” (Mat 15:19).

- So does Paul the apostle (heart ~ flesh)

“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal 5:19-21).

- Purity is the absence of these distractions where one is wholly focused on their supreme love and devotion to God.

- God scrutinizes the heart. Remember 1 Sam 16:6-7, “For God sees not as man sees.”

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?” (Jer 17:9).

- God’s great hopes for us start with the heart.

- “And He said to him, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND’” Mat 22:37.

“Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. (Jer 3:15).

- What is your heart like?

- Do you try to impress others or God?



Singular and Multiple Devotion

Singular devotion: All our focus is on what the Lord wants. His words becomes our wish and action. Lives with confidence, clarity, strength.

Multiple devotion: Energy leaks and competition

Lukewarm comes from having many smaller parts choking out real affection for the Lord.

Temptation can easily sneak in. The fragments of our hearts are to some degree hardened and calloused. A reunited heart comes from complete repentance

Main Lessons

- 1) People tend to wrongly desire what is outward rather than treasure the precious purity of the heart.
- 2) God observes differently than man.

Personal Reflections

- God rewards those who are pure in heart.
- “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- Training is a specialized aspect of discipleship and necessarily focuses on the heart (not exclusively).

Study questions

- Can you see your impurities?
- Have you come to the place where you live with a pure heart? What is holding you back?
- Are you more like Saul or David?

**“As for me, Thou dost uphold me in my integrity,
And Thou dost set me in Thy presence forever” (Ps 41:12).**