



CIBC Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

This guide is designed to help guide life group discussions of this week's sermon at Cayman Islands Baptist Church. For more information on life groups and other discipleship opportunities at CIBC, please visit www.cibaptist.ky.



Get the Picture

-Title: *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."*

-Series/Text: The Flourishing— Matt. 5:1-12

-Date: Nov. 8, 2020

-Speaker: Pastor Steve

-Main Idea: The flourishing person in the kingdom of God is one who is pure in heart.



Group Discussion

a) Connect

- 1) **Commit:** Before you begin, agree as a group that you will commit to having an honest discussion about this text without casting any judgment or sharing any unsolicited advice.
- 2) **Read:** Read **Psalm 139:23-24** out loud before you pray to begin the discussion.
- 3) **Pray:** Pray over the group and ask the Lord to *"Search your heart"* and reveal idols that are keeping you from receiving truth.

b) Engage

- 1) **Read:** Read Matthew 5:1-12 and look for repeating words and major themes that stand out. How do these observations help you understand the section as a whole?
- 2) **Discuss:** In a world that requires us to spend most of our day dividing our attention, how can we focus on God? W
- 3) **Discuss:** Read through Matthew 6:1-18. The religious leaders in Jesus' day were doing the right things for the wrong reasons. Where do we see that pattern in lives today? If purity of heart is singularity of focus, where do you struggle to be pure in heart?
- 4) **Discuss:** Notice Jesus doesn't tell them to stop with their right actions, but they do miss out on the depth that comes when right actions line up with right desire. Sometimes we won't always "feel" like doing the right thing. What's the relationship between discipline and desire?
- 5) **Discuss:** Jesus wants both our motive and our actions. He wants our desire to line up with our discipline - that's pure in heart. In what ways do you seek after being pure in heart? Or in other words how do you develop a pure heart?

- 6) **Discuss:** How can you and I live out this beatitude in our world today both as individuals and as a community?

c) Apply

- 1) **Consider:** An old Puritan Thomas Watson has some great wisdom for us on this verse. (I know the language is a little old school but find the truth within.)

If you would be pure, walk with them that are pure. As the communion of the saints is in our Creed, so it should be in our company. 'He that walketh with the wise shall be wise' (Proverbs 13: 20), and he that walketh with the pure shall be pure. The saints are like a bed of spices. By intermixing ourselves with them we shall partake of their savouriness. Association begets assimilation. Sometimes God blesses good society to the conversion of others.

Wait at the posts of wisdom's doors. Reverence the word preached. The Word of God sucked in by faith (Hebrews 4: 2) transforms the heart into the likeness of it (Romans 6: 17). The word is an holy seed (James 1: 18), which being cast into the heart makes it partake of the divine nature (2 Peter 1: 4).

Go to the bath. There are two baths Christians should wash in.

(i) The bath of tears. Go into this bath. Peter had sullied and defiled himself with sin and he washed himself with penitential tears. Mary Magdalene, who was an impure sinner, 'stood at Jesus' feet weeping' (Luke 7: 38). Mary's tears washed her heart as well as Christ's feet. Oh sinners, let your eyes be a fountain of tears! Weep for those sins which are so many as have passed all arithmetic. This water of contrition is healing and purifying.

(ii) The bath of Christ's blood. This is that 'fountain opened for sin and uncleanness' (Zechariah 13: 1). A soul steeped in the brinish tears of repentance and bathed in the blood of Christ is made pure. This is that 'spiritual washing'. All the legal washings and purifications were but types and emblems representing Christ's blood. This blood lays the soul a-whitening.

Often look into the Word of God. 'Now ye are clean through the word' (John 15:3). 'Thy word is very pure' (Psalm 119:140). God's Word is pure, not only for the matter of it, but the effect, because it makes us pure. 'Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth' (John 17: 17). By looking into this pure crystal we are changed into the image of it. The Word is both a glass to show us the spots of our souls and a laver to wash them away. The Word breathes nothing but purity; it irradiates the mind; it consecrates the heart.

d) Pray

- 1) **Silent Prayer:** Enter into a time of silence to allow God to speak to you in response to everything you discussed today. Listen for areas where He may be telling you He wants you to step out in obedience.
- 2) **Group Prayer:** After a time of silence, close out the study with a group prayer for God's grace to develop a heart of mercy.



Going Deeper

- 1) **Meditate on this rich quote from Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

- a. The Christian can see God in nature, whereas the non-Christian Christian cannot. The Christian sees God in the events of history. There is a vision possible to the eye of faith that no-one else has. But there is a seeing also in the sense of knowing Him, a sense of feeling He is near, and enjoying His presence.