

Study Guide | Matthew 5:8

Further Study

Read Matthew 5:8 and consider some or all of the questions below.

1. Consider these passages: Psalm 24:3-6; Psalm 73:1-3; Jeremiah 24:7; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Peter 1:22-23. How would you define purity of heart in your own words? Why is it important?
2. How does purity of heart relate to the previous beatitudes?
3. Is it possible to have a pure heart in this life? Explain.
4. James 4:8 contrasts purity with double-mindedness. What is double-mindedness, and how is it different from purity?
5. In Psalm 86:11, David prays what appears to be a very relevant prayer: "Unite my heart to fear your name." What does that mean?
6. Hebrews 11:27 says Moses "endured as seeing Him who is invisible." How did Moses see the invisible God? How did that help him endure?
7. According to Psalm 73, what might be the danger of a heart *not* focused on God?
8. Why would you want to see God? (Consider Psalm 16:11; 24:3-4) Why would you, personally, want to see God? What would your desire in that be?

Application

Pick a few questions to discuss.

9. At first glance, does purity sound interesting to you? Why or why not? Do you think it has been misunderstood in our circles? Why or why not? Or, how so?
10. In what ways might you still be double-minded or divided in heart?
11. What challenges from our society might make purity of heart particularly difficult?
12. Does purity mean abstinence and separation from the world? Discuss?
13. Is it possible to go overboard in a pursuit of perfect purity? Why or why not?
14. James 4:8-10 describes a return to purity as first a return to the Lord in humility. What does humbling yourself before God look like practically? Specifically, for you?
15. Are there ways you have seen God in your life (as Jesus promised)? Explain.

When you think about the full fulfillment of this promise to see God, what do you look forward to the most?