KEEPING OUR HEART PURE

Intro: Possibly the greatest sermon ever recorded is the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Mat. 5-7. In this lesson, Jesus begins with the beatitudes (Mat. 5:3-12 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”).

The sixth deals with what we wish to discuss in this lesson. Mat. 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

As Christians we need to set the highest standard of morality and purity. We should “shoot for the highest goal” possible in Christ likeness.

I. WHAT IS OUR HEART?
A. Biblically the heart embraces four areas:
   B. The Intellect or mind: it is the center of understanding.
   C. The Will or determining power of man.
   D. The emotions: it is the seat of affection.
   E. The Conscience:

II. WHAT IS A PURE HEART?
A. Purity indicates free from defects or corruption, unadulterated.
   1. Pure gold is free from dross and foreign materials.
   2. Pure water is uncontaminated.
B. Purity also indicates clean, cleanliness.
C. Thus, the pure heart is one that is clean, unadulterated intellect, will, emotions, and conscience.
D. We must continue to cleanse our heart, each and every day.

III. WHY MUST WE HAVE A PURE HEART?
A. To draw nigh to God.
   1. Psa. 24:3-4 “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.”
   2. 2 Tim. 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
   3. Heb. 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
   4. To hold the faith; 1 Tim. 3:9 “Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.”
   5. To serve God acceptably; 2 Tim. 1:3 “I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;”
B. To love properly.
   1. Rom. 12:9 “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.” Dissimulation means without hypocrisy thus sincere or pure.
   2. 1 Tim. 1:5 “Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:”
3. 1 Pet. 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”

C. To try to win souls.
1. Psa. 51:10-13 “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”

2. Mat. 5:13-16 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

3. We cannot win others to Christ if we do not first portray Christ in our lives.

Conclusion: Let us be pure in heart, and then keep ourselves “unspotted from the world” (Jam. 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”).