

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

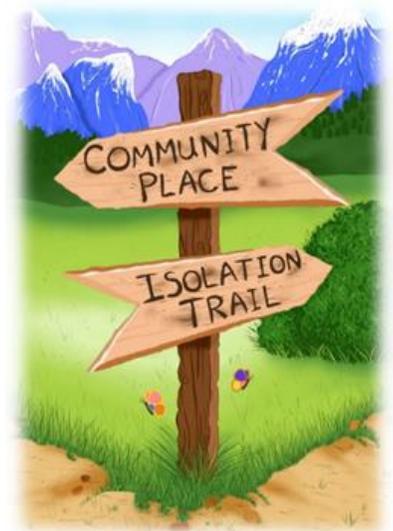
A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

EPISODE 7 - BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE PURE

THE BEATITUDES SERIES (MATTHEW 5:1-12)

- Jesus was traveling near the Sea of Galilee. There were many people following Him. So, Jesus went up on a mountainside and gathered His core disciples around Him. The crowd found places around the mountainside, to hear what He was going to teach His disciples.
- Jesus began teaching His disciples what is known as the Beatitudes. The word “beatitude” means “blessedness.” There are eight blessings that Jesus taught during the Sermon on the Mount.
- This passage teaches us to look at our hearts and the attitudes God wants us to have toward ourselves, our sin, the Lord, and the world.
- Each statement starts with the word “Blessed” which means we are filled with a joy and peace that cannot be shaken. This kind of joy and peace comes as we put our trust in God.
- Trusting God changes our hearts and attitudes, and we find the blessing and future reward Jesus spoke about.
- The Beatitudes set the tone for the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. These blessed statements show the goodness of God, and that we find our blessing in God alone.
- ***Sixth Beatitude: “Blessed are those whose hearts are pure. They will see God.” (Matt. 5:8)***



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- A person's heart becomes pure when that person desires nothing more than to be with God. A person with a pure heart believes that Jesus is their Savior and looks to the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- Sadly, temptation is everywhere, and sin separates us from God. When sin is in our lives, God seems distant and hard to see. This is true when we are aware of our sins and not willing to ask for forgiveness and turn away from our sin. This is repentance.
- But when we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and confess our sins, those sins are overcome, and we can see God in our life. With a pure, thankful heart you see God in everything. You see Him in the trials, you see Him in the blessings, and you see Him in the everyday details of life.
- To keep our hearts pure and focused on God, it's important to be in Christian community. A community of believers loves each other, studies the Bible, prays for each other, and keeps each other accountable.
- As Christians, it is not good to be alone. When we are alone, it becomes much easier to stray from God and give in to temptations around us. This is why being in a Christian community is so important.
- A Christian community could be your church, a Friendship group, or a small group. Jesus said in **Matthew 18:20**; *"Where two or three people gather in my name, I am there with them."* Are you part of a Christian community? If Jesus is with us when we are in community, we can see Him better in community.
- One great example of a Christian community in the Bible is found in **Acts 2:42-47**. During Pentecost, Peter stood up in front of a large crowd and shared the Good News of Jesus' death, resurrection, and the salvation He offers. Many people turned away from their sins, and 3,000 people were baptized that day.
- These believers became a close Christian community. Here is what it says in the book of Acts;

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- ***“The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. Everyone was amazed at what God was doing. They were amazed when the apostles performed many wonders and signs. All the believers were together. They shared everything they had. They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something. Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. They ate meals together in their homes. Their hearts were glad and sincere. They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.”***
- The believers shared their lives together. They gave to those who needed something. They studied what the disciples taught and ate and prayed together with glad and sincere hearts. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved. This was because they knew Jesus was with them in community.
- The early believers remained focused on God. Believing that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Confessing your sins is the first step to having a pure heart. However, you must then look to the Holy Spirit for guidance in your life and surround yourself with other believers. With a pure, thankful heart you see God in everything. You see Him in the trials, you see Him in the blessings, and you see Him in the everyday details of life.
- **Hebrews 12:14** says, *“Try your best to live in peace with everyone. Try hard to be holy. Without holiness no one will see the Lord.”*
- We need to keep our eyes focused on God and look to Him for strength over temptations. When we focus on Jesus and confess our sins, we will see God in our lives.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the Beatitudes?

- The Beatitudes are blessed statements that Jesus taught His disciples, to show the goodness of God and that we find our blessing in God alone.

2. What is the sixth Beatitude, and what does it mean?

- The sixth Beatitude is, “Blessed are those whose hearts are pure. They will see God.” It means a person’s heart becomes pure when that person desires nothing more than to be with God.
- A person with a pure heart believes that Jesus is their Savior and looks to the Holy Spirit for guidance. When we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and confess our sins, those sins are overcome, and we can see God in our life.

3. What did the believers do in the Bible?

- The believers shared their lives together. They gave to those who needed something. They studied what the disciples taught and ate and prayed together with glad and sincere hearts. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

4. Why is it important to be in Christian community?

- Jesus is with us in Christian community. **Matthew chapter 18, verse 20** says; *“Where two or three people gather in my name, I am there with them.”* The community loves each other, studies the Bible, prays for each other, and keeps each other accountable. As Christians, it is not good to be alone.
- When we are alone, it becomes much easier to stray from God and give in to temptations around us. A Christian community could be your church, a Friendship group, or a small group.

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PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. How can you live out the sixth Beatitude in your own life?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your life. Look to surround yourself with Christian community like a Friendship group. Study God's Word, pray daily, go to church and Friendship group, be in Christian community, and tell others about Jesus.

2. How can you encourage someone else with the Beatitudes?

- Pray with them and encourage them to read God's Word. Invite them to church or to Friendship group. Share how much you love God, and the blessings He has given you in your life.

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