

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK

Patrick & Lanette Hillman | JORDAN

PRAISE - Lanette received a new position in English teaching. She likes the work more and she has better contact with the children and their families.

PRAY - For Basaada, Malad, Halow, and Izat. These Arab disciples have continued in evangelism and pastoring in the Middle East. Pray that I will be able to help and encourage them in their stages of ministry. Also, pray that I would be able to encourage others in evangelism to Arab Muslims in the Middle East.

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Handout: 11/14/21

Study: 11/21/21

Happy Are The Holy

Jesus knows that purity is hard to achieve; he also knows that we need to constantly set our sights on it. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God,” he says in Matthew 5:8, part of his Sermon on the Mount. Jesus came not only to transform our outward actions, but even more what is on the inside. It’s Jesus’ hope that the hearts of his followers will turn toward him and be indwelt by the Spirit, but that can’t happen in an unclean heart. So working to make our hearts clean, to keep out the mess and grime, is vital to Jesus; it’s part of his work on the cross, but it’s part of our life as disciples as well.

Christians tend to think of purity as having solely to do with our sexuality, and I think it certainly includes that. But purity, especially the way Jesus talks about it here, is larger in scope. It’s our interior life—a wholeheartedness, a lens through which we view the world.

To be pure means to be without contamination. So how do we keep our hearts from being contaminated? A hard question. I think life does what it can to beat us down, giving us plenty of difficult circumstances to work through. Instead of swallowing these bitter pills, we can tend to chew on them, allowing them to lead us toward resentment and cynicism that make us bitter and mean-spirited. Friendships that go sour, relationships that fail, family that pours salt on wounds of their own creation, injustices big and small—it all eats away at us. It’s enough to make any heart a dark place.

The life of the heart is unknowable but to ourselves and God. It encompasses the attitudes we harbor, the resentments we foster, the loves and hates we cherish. Marilynne Robinson writes in her Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel Gilead, through the thoughts of pastor John Ames who is pondering the resentments in his life: “I have always liked the phrase ‘nursing a grudge,’ because many people are tender of their resentments, as of the thing nearest their hearts.” Whatever takes root in our heart will end up ruling it.

The state of our heart and what takes hold in it leads to who we are, how we treat others, and ultimately how we see and relate to God. And that, I think, is what Jesus is warning us about: our hearts are his, and what goes on inside of us is as important as what goes on outside. In fact, what we do on the outside, our actions, flows from our hearts, from what is going on inside of us. In order to keep our heart a hospitable place for the Spirit to dwell, we have to keep it clean, making sure those bitter resentments and other contaminants don’t take hold.

Being pure, then, means being aware of ourselves, consistently in check, and constantly turning toward God.

Source: “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart” by Katie Ziegler

KEY VERSE

Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

*“Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.”*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 5:1-12, 15:8, 22:37

Introduction

1. The article on the cover states that “To be pure means to be without contamination.” What are some ways in which our hearts become contaminated?
2. How does being pure in heart relate to the other characteristics that Jesus taught us about in the Beatitudes?

Tuesday: Jeremiah 17:9-10; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Romans 10:9-11

What Does It Mean To Be Pure In Heart?

3. What does it mean that our hearts are deceitful? How have you experienced this in your life?
4. What truths do today’s readings teach us about the heart?

Wednesday: Psalm 24; James 4:8

What Promise Is Made To The Pure In Heart?

5. In Psalm 24, how did David describe someone who is pure in heart?
6. Only Jesus was absolutely pure in heart. What phrases in this psalm give hope that a sinner can still be pure in heart?

Thursday: Psalm 19:1, 23:6; Romans 1:20, 8:28-29; John 5:39

Where Will The Pure In Heart See God?

7. How have you seen God in nature?
8. How have you seen God in your circumstances?
9. How have you seen God in the Scriptures?

Friday: Jeremiah 24:7; Acts 15:8-9; John 15:3; Psalm 51:10

How Can You Be Pure In Heart?

10. What distractions do we face that make it difficult to be pure in our hearts?
11. Based upon today’s scripture readings, what are some things that can help us with our purity?
12. Choose an area of your life where you would like to grow in purity. How will you grow?