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Beatitudes: THE PURE OF HEART

Matthew 5:3-11: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Purity of Heart = Integrity

Integrity is the firm foundation that we will build our life upon. It's a house that we will build for ourselves

Genesis 3:1-7: Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the creatures the Lord God had made. “Really?” He asked the woman. “Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?”

“Of course we may eat it,” the woman told him. “It’s only the fruit from the tree at the center of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God says we must not eat it or even touch it, or we will die.”

“You won’t die!” the serpent hissed. “God knows that your eyes will be opened when you eat it. You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil.”

The woman was convinced... So she ate some of the fruit. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. Then he ate it, too. At that moment, their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness...

Our first instinct is to embrace vanity and hide from God.

Embracing vanity looks like finding our sense of identity and purpose from temporary things.

Matthew 23:25: Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and self-indulgence.

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How do you know when you're hiding from God?

- There's a refusal to confess my sins to God in prayer.
 - **Psalm 32:3-7:** When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.
- There's a lack of trust and vulnerability in my relationships.
 - **2 Corinthians 6:11-13:** We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.
- There's no movement from the shallow things of God to the deep things of God.
 - **1 Peter 2:2:** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- There's a deep, permeating sense of insecurity that affects my everyday life.
 - **Isaiah 26:3:** You keep perfect peace in those whose minds are fixed on you, because they trust in you.
- There's an inability to rest and simply be with God.
 - **Psalm 62:5:** For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

New Posture: Wholehearted honesty before God.

Genesis 3:21: And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.