



**Sermon on the Mount**  
**Wk. 7 "Happy are the Pure in Heart"**  
**By Pastor Jody May 10/06/2024**

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**Matthew 5:1-11 ESV**

**The Sermon on the Mount**

**5** Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

**The Beatitudes**

**2** And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

**3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**5** "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

**6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

**7** "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

**8** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

**10** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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**[READ THE TEXT]**

**Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God."**

**People – "Thanks be to God."**

**[PRAY]**



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**[INTRO]**

**My first car was a gray 1979, Chevrolet, Monte Carlo, with power windows/locks + powered driver seat, w/an 8-track stereo system. But most important it had a 4.4L V8, with a rebuilt 4 speed automatic transmission and a new torque converter and she could fly!**



Now I know she's not much to look at, but I loved her, with all her blemishes, because she was mine. She was 8 years old before I inherited her from mom and back in those days that was old because cars didn't age as well as they do now. Her bumper rails had peeled off due to the Florida heat, her Landau roof was mildewy, and her cloth roof would hang on my head while I drove, of which all these my parents took care of before I left for school. But that was all ok, for what was most important on her was her heart, her engine which still ran well. She could go 0-60 in seemed in a blink of an eye, she could



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smoke tires with the lightest of touches to her pedal, and she could beat my friends Camaros without even trying.

Unfortunately, we lost her way before her time. During my freshman year at school a friend of mine borrowed her and parked her in a not-so safe place and she was stolen. She was later found deserted and stripped in a field after being used in some robberies, of which I found out when I discovered the cops were looking for me. I grieved over her because I knew the truth behind that downtrodden, stripped out, exterior that within her chest beat the heart of a lion that loved to run!

You see that's much different than today as is made evident when I scan the high school parking lots when dropping off my kids. Youngsters are much more concerned about their radios, their paint jobs, their tires, their suspensions, their electronics than they are their engine. The car industry is the same now, they charge you for all the upgrades while making you pay for less valuable motors. It seems people are more concerned with the external looks of what they drive instead of the heart that drives the car. Sad to say though the engine is STILL the most important factor when you go to sell a car. BECAUSE it is the engine that is responsible for getting you from point A to point B!

Now we take that same concept and comparison and look at the Christian. A person can spend a lot of time and effort on making cosmetic changes to their life.

We can master our religions and in return develop complex and externally beautiful morality, disciplines, and ethics.

We can learn to give exorbitant amounts of money to good causes making us appear generous and altruistic.

We can learn vast amounts of theological material to the point we can recite the most famous scholars of our day.

All of that and I mean all of that will not get you into heaven, it will not help you see God, IF you are still working with an impure heart/an engine that is no good!

**[REVIEW of how the Beatitudes work]**



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**For the Christian the HEART IS the MOST IMPORTANT part of you**, and just like an engine, all the external drapings can rot, but, if the engine is not good, if the heart is bad, you won't make it. In the same vein, the longer a Christian lives and takes care of that heart, the better off that person is, the body will die but the heart becomes even stronger as we age, ensuring you will make your final destination.

**MP:**

**Having a Pure heart enables the Christian  
to follow Jesus and see His Kingdom.**

Today we are looking at **the Primacy of the Heart**, the importance of your Spiritual engine. Next, we will look at **the Perils of heart disease**, and by that how a sick heart must be changed. Then we will look though at the gracious gift or a **Provision of a cure by God**. Then lastly when we have a Pure Heart it also changes the way we see things so we will close with the **gift of Proficient Vision**.

**1. The Primacy of the Heart. (The Importance of understanding your engine)**

**What is the Heart/Engine?**

First, we have to talk about what does the scripture mean by the heart. Is it only talking about the physical part, which I think most of you know that's not right? You may think that it's the belly of the emotional part of the person and that's not exactly right either, it's more. The heart: **καρδία (kardia)**. n. fem. **heart** can refer to the vital organ BUT is more often used metaphorically for the inner person.)<sup>1</sup> It is the inner self, inclination, dispositions, and the will.

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<sup>1</sup> καρδία (kardia). n. fem. **heart**. Refers literally to the vital organ, but is more often used metaphorically for the inner person. The heart is rarely used to denote only the physical organ in the NT, but the literal meaning is underlying the figurative uses. It is the source of the physical life (Acts 14:17) but also the center of the inner life, including perception, volition, and intellect (Rom 1:24; Luke 12:45). It is particularly used in association with love, as when Paul writes to the Philippians, "I have you in my heart" (Phil 1:7. Jonathon Lookadoo, "Body," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).



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Meaning - **The Heart is the center of a person made up of the mind and emotions influenced by past experiences and operates with and without conscious thought.** Literally it is the engine that drives everything about you, it is your center. Your physical senses take in this world around you and it is your heart that reacts to it, sending signals to the rest of your entirety to respond.

**What does the heart do?**

**Proverbs 4:23 ESV**

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it **flow the springs of life.**

The heart brings life, or we should say **how you live out your life is a condition of your heart.** You live as your heart exists; you can't live other than how your heart desires. Just as a man who has blocked arteries may want to run a 5K he can't for his heart won't let him. As it is with the spiritual man, you may want to run the good race, to finish the course and keep the faith, but if you don't have a good heart, you can't.

Growing up my family owned Norwegian Elkhounds, kind of like a husky, a little smaller but with brown eyes. We had a male and a female, the boy we called 'Bear' and the girl we called "Tanya'. We had bear for a couple of years first before we got Tanya. Bear was a good dog, he was gentle, and was very protective of the family, and as outside dogs do, he liked to dig but only in one spot, under a tree to escape the sun. Tanya was a good dog but developed after a year a habit for not just digging a hole but digging a hole to escape under the fence. It was a habit that we could not break and eventually had to give her back to the breeder, for not only was she constantly getting out, but she began to entice Bear into the same behavior.

The point is we gave both dogs the same food, same environment, and the same attention but Tanya's heart was never bound to us or our home. Her heart couldn't help but think the grass was greener on the other side of that fence. She was always enticed by what the neighbor dogs were eating. Her behavior problems didn't start with her owners it started with a **heart that**



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**was not bound** with and under submission to her owners. BTW when she left all of Bears bad behaviors disappeared, and his heart was restored.

Again, the Proverbs states it is from the heart that springs our life, our choices, and our desires, that is why we are commanded to keep it with all vigilance.

Because it is the heart from which all actions begin with, it is the place that our God begins with in judging us. King David reminds us that it is impossible for us to hide our inner thoughts and being from God.

**God understands our heart better than us!**

**Psalm 139:1-4,13,16 ESV**

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you **discern my thoughts from afar.**

(God understands the aim or purpose we take in life; that's a heart thing)

<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

(you know my haunts, and you know why I run to them, you know what I am looking for)

<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

(We can't even try to defend our actions for God already sees the cause of our actions. So, how in the world can He do this?)

<sup>13</sup>For you formed my inward parts; ( **כִּלְיָאֵה** **kilyâh**, kil-yaw': the seat of emotion/affection – God put your heart together to function a certain way, proclivities, likes and dislikes, He built your engine to run specifically for your life; He doesn't drop the same stock 350V8 in everyone's hood, you get the engine you will need to bring glory to God)

you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.



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(Then He wrote out your days Christian so even when you tried to use your engine to escape the confines of your fencing, God set up your heart to make future decisions to bring you back to Him, He already had all that mapped out.)

SO, the heart is the center of our being, it makes all the decisions, and we can't escape judgment and claim bad environmental factors, bad parental upbringing, or a woke college education, because God gave us the engine that could, so we need to talk about then how it goes all can go so terribly wrong.

## **2. The Perils of Heart Disease. (The desperate need for a changed heart)**

The problem that Jews were encountering with their heart is spelled out in this Beatitude: **if your heart is not pure you can't see God, to know Him, to comprehend Him.** Remember that word for seeing ὁράω *horáō*, hor-ah'-o: means to perceive rightly to experience as when Jesus saw the crowds in 5:1 He comprehended their need and taught them. **When man sees God rightly, He responds to Him rightly**, that comes along with a pure heart. With that being said all men have a heart problem, we have heart disease, and no one is above that prognosis.

**First, we can't escape our heart problem.**

### **Psalm 51:5 ESV**

*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

David was very wise in accepting why He sinned, because he knew he couldn't escape it! We are all born what we call '**original sin**', that means the sin of Adam has contaminated every part of us, we cannot escape being born sinners, and the ability to do otherwise does not exist within us for every part of us is corrupt. What would that do for us if we could just accept that. Do you think we would pray more, and act less?

**THEREFORE, because of that condition from birth we have heart disease.**

### **Jeremiah 17:9 ESV**

The **heart is deceitful above all things**, and desperately sick; who can understand it?





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To understand is to discover a way to control it, but the prophet here at the end of the nation of Israel in the OT, is like look we had our chance, did anyone figure this out yet? Has anyone devised a plan on how to get around that part of us that wants to do what it wants, that seeks to rebel, that seeks to flee the confines of one's good green pasture?

**Wait there's more, on top of that we are unable to cure our own hearts!**

**Psalm 51:1-2; 10 ESV**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

Create in me a **clean heart**, O God,  
and renew a **right spirit** within me.

So, David gives us a clue, the cure cannot be found inside of us, it only comes from the outside of us! We don't have the mechanical expertise to correct what is wrong with our engine. But that never seemed to sink through to the people not after hundreds of years, even when Jesus came to the earth over a millennium later men were still trying to figure out. A way to fix the problem without looking at the cause of the problem, being born into sin.

The [Pharisees](#) of Jesus's day had tried to see God better by increasing the law they followed, if they could do enough it would make their hearts better. They had developed the "**Oral Traditions**" or ways to live out the Torah (which became the [Mishnah](#) in 200CE) of the law, ways in which to behave holier, by pursuing these customs. **It means they were pursuing the enhancement of the outward appearances but not the heart/engine.** They had begun to believe that the outward appearances are what made them see God. In other words, the proof was the amount of their works = giving them a higher status in their social relationships = The favor of God.

**Matthew 12:34 ESV**





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You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Jesus is like there is no way you can help lead these people, you can't care for them for your heart is the automatic thing that drives you and I can see that it is bad. If you had a good heart, you would be gracious and kind to these people. Instead, they had neglected to do so by abusing them, making them feel insignificant and lost, so as to keep themselves looking good.

**Matthew 23:26 ESV**

You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

Christ tells them here the order that is must happen in, you don't start with the outside to make it better you start with the inside. **(see John 3)**

Now the bad news is we really haven't changed much in 2,000 + years!

As people born depraved (**original sin**) we always go to the same standard that the Pharisees went to 2,000 years ago, we look first to see who is beneath us, who can we subject in our minds to make us feel better about our sin problem, or our heart problem. Perhaps you catch yourself every once in a while, thinking something like this:

- Maybe it makes you feel better when you look at others and think you work harder than them.
- Or maybe you take pleasure in being able to organize like no other, and your ability to bring order to chaos makes you feel superior.
- Or making money has always come easy to you and since that is the measure the world judges us by, you use that one to compare yourself to others.
- Some of you have been blessed with a chef's palate, of which I appreciate, but have you thought to yourself that gives you a one up on those who can't cook.



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- Perhaps you have been blessed with the time to volunteer more than others, does that really mean you have a bigger heart than other people?
- How about those of us that love being recognized at our job, you have figured out the formula to get noticed, does that really make you better?
- Then some of us we use our kids and their accolades to show the world *look I can parent better than you*, yeah but that's the world's standards not Gods'.

For those of us that get caught up in this game, of course the flip side of that once you figure out how to look better, to make yourself feel better, you will find the person on the totem pole higher up than you and you will begin to resent your place. You see chasing purity based on works is a dead-end race with no chance for victory and no hope to really fix that which is broken in you, your heart.

Blessed are the Pure in Heart for the shall see God, well **Jesus saw a cure**, so let's discover what He knows, to address our heart disease, this thing we can't fix ourselves.

### **3. The Provision of a cure.**

The cure was never to come by what we could do, it was only to come by what God could do, and it would take a supernatural movement by God to fix our hearts. **(What the prophets were piecing together)** The prophet Ezekiel, along with the prophet Jeremiah ([Jeremiah 31:33-34](#): [Jeremiah 32:40](#)), wrote about what would have to happen inside of us before anything we ever could do would be counted to us as righteous.

**God is the only one that can cure an impure heart.**

**Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV**

<sup>26</sup> And **I will give** you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.



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The way in which God would do this is provide a Messiah who will operate with a Pure Heart for the people.

**Jeremiah 33:15 ESV**

In those days and at the time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**It is from this Pure Heart that Jesus lives His life, and that's what makes His works acceptable unto God.**

**1 Peter 2:22-24 ESV**

<sup>22</sup> He committed **no sin**, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

(There was no deceit ONLY because He had a Pure Heart, a Pure Heart is the only way you can achieve things that are righteous and accepted by God.)

<sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

(Christ body was beaten, bloodied and left for dead. His literal heart was pierced for good measure, **but none of that could touch the engine of our Lord**. His heart was Pure, He was not born of Adam, He is the offspring of Eve prophesied in Genesis 3:15, He has no original sin, His intent has been to please God all along, and His righteous actions were counted in our behalf.)

That's what you can put your trust in, you **must believe by faith** that His actions matched with His heart, they were both PURE, they were both accepted by a Holy God, and only in Him can you be saved! The problem existed in you BUT the remedy comes from without side of you, and this is the way we are washed and given a new clean heart according to the prophet Ezekiel and Jeremiah.

Now when the Christian's heart has been replaced, when the engine problem has been addressed by faith, **shown by the ability to give mercy and receive it**, they can begin to see God for himself.



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#### **4. The gift of Proficient Vision.**

##### **John 14 ESV**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on **you do know him and have seen him.**"

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.**

Blessed are the Pure in Heart, the changed the corrected the redeemed inner man, **for they can see Jesus!** They see that He is in line with the Father, that if you do what He says and do what He does you are truly seeing God. Meaning you are perceiving finally what God wants, you are understanding how God moves, and you always come to see how things bring Him glory! You begin to see things as God sees things!

One of the greatest things about growing in Christ, being sanctified, is that when you look back in your life you begin to SEE where God was moving and how it led to your present situation (**JOSEPH**). You begin to believe it was for the good of God's elect ([Romans 8:28](#)). Every time, you turn around you will begin to see and believe that this too is a part of God's design. It means you become at rest even in the midst of stressful times for you are seeing God doing things all around you. That person starts to get excited about life even when times are hard because they know a better day is coming when they can finally see Him face to face, the day when it ALL MAKES SENSE! Then there's the promise you will see more!

##### **Revelation 1:7 ESV**

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Those who saw the Lord active in the Spirit here on earth will be the **first ones to scream Halleluiah** when He returns to His people!



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**Revelation 21:1-7 ESV**

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

We will be the ones to see His correction of all things, the destruction of all evil, the conquering of all our enemies, the recreation of the heavens and earth, and we will see the receiving of the rewards by the saints.

**Revelation 22:4 ESV**

They will see his **face**, and his name will be on their foreheads.

And finally, the great Amen, in the end, not just in Spirit, I will see the face of Jesus of Nazareth my Savior, who's name I will bear forevermore.

**MP:**

**Having a Pure heart enables the Christian  
to follow Jesus and see His Kingdom.**

Be vigilant family, for the heart is deceitful but take hope God will fix it.

Be in prayer, be in the Word, confess your sin quickly, repent and turn from unholiness, and cast down your attempts to make yourself look good.



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Embrace this life, fear not your circumstances, for God is using them for the good of all His peoples.

**[PRAYER]**

**[CALL TO OBEY]**

**2 Timothy 2:22 ESV**

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Come, Church, let us obey and be pure that we may KNOW/SEE the Lord.

**[COMMUNION]**

**Matthew 26:26-29 ESV**

<sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."<sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you,<sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.<sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus, it was He that was predetermined by the Father to be the Righteous branch from Jesse, it was He that would guard His heart with all vigilance, and it was He that lived the life perfectly because Adam could not, extending to us, as our rightful King, the gift of a Pure Heart. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood. It was he that offered His life in atonement for sin, it was He that gave His life from the pure motive of loving God above all others, and it is He that supplies the blood to bring in our new covenant, so our heart of stone would be removed. Praise be to Him for His wonderful Love.



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**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

\* The Congregation will stand

**Elder – "Christians, what do you believe?"**

**LBCF 1689 13.1 Sanctification**

***All Who are Saved will Pursue Holiness***

All who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated with a new heart and spirit created in them through the work of Christ's death and resurrection are also in addition sanctified, both objectively and personally, 1 through the same work of Christ. They are sanctified by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them. 2 Through sanctification, the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed 3 and its various lusts are more and more weakened and killed. 4 Those who are sanctified are more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces 5 to the practice of true holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. 6

1. Acts 20:32; Romans 6:5-6 2. John 17:17; Ephesians 3:16-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23 3. Romans 6:14 4. Galatians 5:24. 5. Colossians 1:11 6. 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG] –**

**[BENEDICTION]**

Go in the name of the Father, that formed all our inward parts before we were born, election, as a part of His Sovereign will to save His children.

Go in the name of the Son, that that lived out of a Pure Heart perfectly for us so that we could obtain that same gracious gift.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that cultivates within us a pure heart, enabling us to see God, now go and share this good news with others.





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