

## I. Review

- A. Jesus starts the SOTM with 8 aspects of His bridegroom heart that He longs to impart. He imparts these heart conditions to us in order for us to share in deep intimacy and love with Him. As we enter into this deeper degree of friendship, we experience increasing levels of abundant kingdom life in our inner man.
1. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit – Out of the desire for intimacy with His Father, Jesus chose to empty Himself and only rely upon what His Father empowered Him to do and say. Poverty of spirit is the necessary posture of entrance to and experience of the Kingdom.
  2. Blessed are those who Mourn for the Kingdom – Experiencing the Kingdom causes us to see a disparity between the current age and the coming Kingdom age. This causes a constant dissatisfaction and mourning in our soul, until the fullness of the Kingdom comes.
  3. Blessed are the Meek – Meekness is the restraint of power or strength for the higher purposes of righteousness. The meekness of Jesus is the primary aspect of peace and rest in our inner man, and the surety of an eternal Kingdom of peace on the earth.
  4. Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness – God’s righteousness must increase in your soul in order to give life and nourishment to your inner man, and grow you up into the maturity of fullness of life and love.
  5. Blessed are the Merciful – Biblical mercy is having a sense of compassion over the state of an individual and a desire to free them from that state. Mercy is the primary aspect of the relational love of God.

## II. *Blessed are the Pure in Heart for they shall see God (Mat. 5:8)*

- A. In this study we have paid particular attention to the divine order of these beatitudes and have come to understand that they build upon one another. This leads us to question why this particular aspect of God’s heart is placed here. To have a “Pure Heart” and “To see God”, could easily be placed at the top of humanities list of priorities, the ultimate goal, and the whole purpose of all religion.
1. I believe the conclusion we can draw from the divine order of placement of this beatitude is that it is not possible to walk in the fullness of loving with a pure heart without the first five being established and cultivated in us.

2. The first three beatitudes (poverty of spirit, mourning for the kingdom, and meekness) build on one another and speak of the heart posture of inner need and longing when faced with the character of God. The fourth, (hungering for righteousness) speaks of reaching to God to find satisfaction for those longings and needs. Then beatitudes five through seven (merciful, pure in heart, and peacemaking) build on one another and correlate to the outflow of relational heart response to God and to the world that was cultivated through the first four. Finally, the eighth beatitude (joy in persecution) is the heart posture of God to the world's reactions as result of Jesus being formed in us through the first seven.
- B. The Heart – The biblical term “heart” is used in two main ways in the scriptures. One speaks of the seat of affection and emotions, the other speaks of is used interchangeably with “soul” and speaks of the center of man’s personality that comes from his mind, will, and emotions. The second is used in this beatitude.
1. The religious spirit is always interested in the matters of obedience in conduct, behavior, and participation in religious activities and rites. The Holy Spirit is always interested in the heart (or the mind, will, and emotions) behind the outward actions. Humanity’s pride, through the religious spirit, says outward obedience is a higher priority than heart posture. Jesus’s love, through the Holy Spirit, says the heart posture is a higher priority than outward obedience. (Is. 1:11-18; Mat. 15:1-20)
- C. Purity of the Heart – This phrase, in the original Greek, carries the theme of straightness, honesty, and clarity. The idea connected to this phrase is to have an undivided heart, which is utterly sincere in their devotion to God and others. It’s focused upon an inner purity of the soul and is seen as a different type of purity than outward morality or religious purity.
1. The pure heart loves with no hidden agenda and no caveats. God did not seek out relationship with us for some type of benefit to Himself. He gave His undivided love to us even when we hated Him. This is the way God loves us. The invitation is for us to experience and walk in this type of love in our relationship with Him and with others.
  2. In this beatitude, Jesus is exhorting us to the blessedness of an individual who has an authentic, intense, singular, loving devotion to God - is pure in motivation. This same purity of heart, by definition, will carry over into the sphere of relational interaction with other people. The purity of our love is found in the question of why we love God and others. Would our love change if their response to our love happened to not be what we expected?
- D. The Pure Heart on Display – The pure love of Jesus towards His Father and us was, and remains, untainted by divided motivations or intentions. He never showed favoritism or chose to pursue certain relationships because that relationship would position Him for a greater platform or higher benefit. (Mat. 12:46-50; Jhn 12:20-25; 4:46-53)

1. When those He loved turned on Him, or did not respond to His intentionality with them in the way He wanted, Jesus was unoffended and continued to love them with a fierce, whole heart. (Mat. 5:43-48; Jhn 13:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:20-23)

### **III. Recreated in His Image**

A. As with all the beatitudes, Jesus invites us to be transformed into His image. To love with a pure heart. He invites us to analyze our motives for the relationships we are in and those that we pursue. He calls us into the freedom and fullness of pure hearted love. Relational love will always be insecure, immature, and guarded if there is not pure hearted love existing between the people in the relationship.

1. Loving God with a pure heart – Do you love God for who He is, or do you love Him for what He can do for you? When God’s activity in your life is difficult to discern, does your love wane? Jesus often made it a point to reveal the true intentions of those who desired relationship with Him. (Jhn 6:1-72; Ps. 24:1-10)
2. Loving others with a pure heart – It does not take very much introspection to find that we rarely walk in the pure hearted love of God when it comes to our relationships with one another. Even in our closest relationships we will withhold love if it is not reciprocated as we feel it should be. Never the less, Jesus desires to impart to us the fullness of love through His Spirit and exhorts us to the destiny of loving others in the same purity as He loves us. (1 Tim. 1:5-7; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Pet. 1:22-25)