

## Blessed are the Pure in Heart

Matthew 5:8

### Small Group Discussion

#### Intro Question:

- *When do you find it easy to be most focused?* You can answer this question in a number of ways. For example, you are most focused when you are at work, working on a project with a strict deadline; or you may feel most focused when you have had a good night of sleep and a cup of coffee; or you are most focused when engaging in a particular pastime. When do you find it easy to be most focused?

**Read Matthew 5:1-8.** Today's discussion will focus on v. 8.

1. When you see this verse as first glance, how does it make you feel? Does it bring you hope or despair? Why?
  - a. Pastor Steve said that one way to interpret this verse would be to say, "Sad are the sinful, for they will never see God." Do you feel that way?
  - b. Based on our study of the previous beatitudes—specifically v. 3 and v. 6—why must there be a different interpretation?
2. Another way of viewing Jesus' statement here is to say that he is commending not just outward purity, but inward purity. What is the difference between inward Purity and outward purity? How do I bring the two together?
3. If God can see into my heart can I ever really be inwardly pure before him?
  - a. Read 1 John 1:8-9. How can our hearts be inwardly pure? Focus especially on v. 9b. In the Greek that John uses, there is the implication that as we continually confess our sins, Jesus continually purifies us, in a transforming way.
4. Steve largely defined the purity of heart that Jesus speaks of as singleness of heart—singleness in our love of and pursuit of God.
  - a. What would "singleness of heart" in your love for God look like?
  - b. In contrast, what does a divided heart look like in real life?
  - c. For you, what things keep you from having a singleness of heart in your love for God and pursuit of him?
5. Steve argued that Jesus was telling us, not only will we have the privilege of literally seeing God in the glorious future, when Jesus returns, but in the here and now, if we pursue God with singleness of heart, we will see him more and more clearly now. We will understand more and more of who he is and what he wants for us.
  - a. Have you experienced this reality playing out in your life, as you have sought God?
  - b. What are the kinds of things that the Lord loves – things that the Spirit of God is specifically telling you, that he wants you to love?
6. At the end of the musical *Les Miserables* they sing, "To love another person is to see the face of God." Is this true? If so, how?

**Prayer:** Spend some time sharing about your current prayer needs, and also, how you want to grow in your singleness of heart before God. Pray earnestly for one another. Pray also that God will give us a unified vision as a church about how we can pursue him and the endeavors he values in our world.