

Pure Hearts See God

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Married Couples Christmas Dinner (Larry)
- B. Slide3 Thanksgiving Eve service Photos. (Larry) * Also...bring **PIE** (kids with us/fam night)
- C. Slide4 Women's Christmas: push the ladies Christmas Celebration.
 1. 2 things: bring baked goods to sell (to offset costs) & a gift for Rancho Damacitas (bath or hand towels / indiv or sets).
- D. Slide5 City Serve 2016: We as a church family will be performing community services impacting our local community. This will be a mobilization of at least **30 Churches**, w/ approx **12,000 volunteers**, coming together in our Tem/Murr Valley on **March 5,6 2016**.
 1. We are recruiting approximately 35 Project leaders that will take each project from start to finish.
 2. There will be a meeting after 3rd service **next Sun 11/29** to start the coordination efforts, in the **Mercy rm**.
 3. **Javier Garcia** will be the key point of contact for that meeting and will be assisting and providing guidance through the entire process.
- E. Slide6 Sanctus Real: Tonight 6pm
- F. Prayer: Vance Havner, *Jesus is all we have; He is all we need and all we want. We are shipwrecked on God and stranded on Omnipotence.*

II. Slide7 Intro: Pure Hearts See God

- A. Blessed are the **pure in heart**, For they shall see God.
 1. Slide8a Msg *You're blessed when you get your **inside world**, your mind and heart, put right. Then you can see God in the **outside world**.*
 2. The **converse** of this beatitude is in Heb.12:14, *Pursue (peace with all people, and) holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.*
- B. Slide8b It's **not enough** to clean up your life on the **outside**...*What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy - full of greed and self-indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the **inside** of the cup and the dish, and then the **outside** will become clean, too.*
 1. I think we forget that Jesus **wasn't/isn't** after a society that has **no acts of adultery, & no acts of murder**. Yet so often that seems to be what Christians

are after politically. *A more moral society*. Jesus said, its way deeper than just not committing adultery or murder, *its a matter of the heart*.

2. Jesus' aim is not to **reform** the manners of society, but to **change the hearts of sinners** like you and me. *That changes a society...literally from the inside out.*

III. Slide9 **BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART (8a)**

A. Slide10,11 **Heart?** - *kardIA*. The Heart is the *Inner Man* w/his many functions.

1. The Heart has **emotions**, *let not your heart be troubled*. Jn.14:1
2. The Heart refers also to the **intellect**, *Why reason these things in your heart?*
3. The Heart also refers to the **will**, *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.*
 - a) The Heart is the *Master Control* area of life. Solomon said, *Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*
4. The heart, the center of the *inner life* of the person where all the **spiritual forces & functions** have their origin. TDNT
 - a) The heart is what you **are** in the *secrecy* of your thoughts & feelings.
 - b) *What you are at the invisible root matters as much to God as what you are at the visible branch.* John Piper
5. So Jesus didn't come into this world to help us **reform some bad habits**, but to **purify dirty hearts**. Not to make **bad** people **good**, but to make **dead** people **alive**. To swap His **rightness** for our **wrongness**.

B. Slide12a **Pure** - *katharOs*, **clean & undefiled**/unmixed.

1. **Clean:** We get an *English medical term* from *katharOs*...
 - a) A doctor uses a **cathartic**, which stimulates evacuation of the bowels; a purgative or laxative.
 - b) A Psychiatrist uses **catharsis** on the emotional level to **cleans** the patient of hostilities & other destructive attitudes. [*or crying is a cathartic release*]
 - c) There is also a spiritual **catharsis**, a cleansing of the inner man.
2. Slide12b **Undefiled/unmixed:** the 2nd meaning refers to *straight, undiluted, consistent, homogeneous, plain, pure, unadulterated*.

- a) **Examples:** Milk w/o water added. Gold w/the dross removed. Wheat w/the chaff removed. The basic idea is *integrity, singleness of heart*, as opposed to: *duplicity, a double heart, or a divided heart*.
 - b) In the OT we heard the **contrasts** between **ritual suitability** or **unsuitability** before God, **or** the states of being either **holy** and **profane**. **Which allowed or denied** someone access to God in the OT.
3. Jesus' original audience would have made no distinction between having a heart *pure from sin* (in general) & a heart *free from ritual impurity* (in particular)
- C. **Slide13** When God **cleanses** the sinner he does more than *wash away sin*, He puts **w/in him** a **New Heart** that wants to focus wholly on **Him**.
- 1. Jer.32:38,39 *They will be my people, and I will be their God. And I will give them one heart and one purpose: to worship me forever, for their own good and for the good of all their descendants.*

IV. **Slide14 FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD (8b)**

- A. Well, the opposite of *seeing God* would be *spiritual blindness*.
- B. **See God** - Likely an allusion to the *temple entrance liturgy* of **Psalm 24**. (esp.3-6)
 - 1. **Choir** would sing v.1,2. **A voice** would respond with v.3. **Then another voice** would answer with v.4.
 - 2. **Slide15 vs.3** Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has **clean hands** and a **pure heart**, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol (to what is false), Nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This is Jacob, the generation of those who **seek Him**, Who **seek Your face**.
 - 3. **Note:** **clean hands** (rt *actions*) & **pure hearts** (rt *attitudes*). **Or** purity of *conduct/character*.
 - 4. **Clean hands** – that's the outward life.
 - a) What monarch would have servant's w/*filthy hands* to wait at His table?
 - b) **2 questions:** How to **get** them clean? How to **keep** them clean?
 - (1) Wash them in *the basin of Jesus' blood*. **Then**, **keep** washing them.
 - 5. **Pure heart** - that's the inward life.

- a) **Slide16** God brings the **hands** & the **heart** together because... *We do what we do because we are what we are.*
- b) True religion is **heart-work**. **Dirt in the heart** throws **dust** in the eyes.
6. **Slide17** James 4:8 **Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**
- a) Double-minded is when we try to be a friend w/the world & a friend of Jesus. 4:4
- b) It's a women in love with 2 men...*it doesn't work.*
- c) **Purity of heart** is when we give our *full & total allegiance to God.*
It's when we *love God with all our heart.* **Not** with part. **Not** w/a double or divided heart. It's a heart with **no** deception. **No** double-mindedness. **No** divided allegiance.
- C. **Slide18a** To see God is to be *admitted into His presence.*
- eg. In the same way that you call to **see** your doctor. You **don't** mean you want to see him/her from a distance, **or** see a picture of them, **you mean** you want an *appointment* to be with them. To **see God** is to be *admitted into His presence.*
- D. **Slide18b** To see God is to be *awestruck by His glory.*
- Job said, *I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, & I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.* 42:5,6
 - Our spiritual **sight** in this life is mediated to us through **the Word of God** **or** **the work of God** in **providence**. **We see** images and reflections of his glory. **We hear** echoes and reverberations of his voice.
 - But** there will come a day when God Himself will dwell among us. **His glory** will no longer be *inferred* from lightning and mountains and roaring seas and constellations of stars. **Instead** our experience of him will be **direct**. *His glory will be the very light in which we move (Rev.21:23) and the beauty of his holiness will be tasted directly like honey on the tongue.* Piper
- E. **Slide19a** Eventually we know we will see His Face [Rev.22:4 *And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads*]. **Yet** Jesus is promising us the vision of God *here & now.*

1. It's the Principle, **we See what we Love**. And If what we Love is **God**, we will live in a world that's **filled w/God**.

a) **Ex: David did** - Read Ps.29:3-10

b) **Jesus did** - He saw **God's providence** in the fall of a sparrow. He saw **the generosity of God** in the beauty of a lily. He saw in a farmer sowing his seeds the **Word of God** planted in man's heart.

2. God's Fingerprints/Footprints are clearly seen by the saint who has a **pure heart**.

F. **Slide19b Seeing God** thru the eyes of *the Heart* is not a momentary thing; it is *constant & growing*

1. Winston Churchill, ***To build may have to be the slow & laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.***

a) **Moses** built that relationship w/God, **before** he asked to see **His glory**.

G. **Slide19c Lastly**, When you start to **see God**, you also start to see what God sees.

1. You see **yourself** in the light of God's Glory

a) Job 42:5,6 *I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, & I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.*

2. You see **others** in a new light

a) The Scribes & Pharisees **saw** tax collectors & sinners as *rebels*;

Jesus saw them as *lost coins, lost sheep, & lost sons*.

3. **The Eyes see what the Heart Loves**. If the heart **loves God** & is **single** in this devotion, **then** the eyes will **see God**.