



Happy are the Pure in Heart

The sixth Beatitude says the pure in heart will see God. But what makes a human heart or mind pure? Jesus says unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

A person who follows all the rituals of a religion may claim that he/she is pure in heart. Those who go to places of worship and pray regularly may also make a similar claim. But then, their actions are sometimes just the opposite of what they say.



They lack integrity and Jesus calls such people hypocrites. Jesus compared hypocrites to the tombs, which may be white washed or made of marble stone to look beautiful on the outside but were filled with the bones of the dead inside. He was particularly critical of the Pharisees and the Scribes who practiced religion to show off and did not live according to what they taught.

Just the opposite of the Pharisees and Scribes are the Saints and Prophets who were pure of heart. That is why Saint Therese of Lisieux or St. Teresa of the Child Jesus who lived in the four walls of a convent in France could experience God. The purity of her heart is evident in her joyous words: "On the day of my conversion, Charity entered into my heart and with it a yearning to forget self always; thence forward I was happy."

Those who love God and fellow humans are indeed pure of heart. Do you know Father Damien who saw God in the lepers of Molokai or Archbishop Oscar Romero who saw Jesus in the oppressed and exploited people of El Salvador? In the Catholic Church we have many men and women who saw God in the least ones. Jesus promises a great reward for them, – they will always be happy and blessed.

Many of these Saints suffered humiliation and persecution but continued to serve God and humanity. Another example is the life of Daya Bai, a Catholic woman from Kerala working among the tribals or adivasis of Madhya Pradesh. She gave up a comfortable life to live with the poor, to help improve their lives despite opposition from some people.

And yet Daya Bai is happy to serve the poor adivasis because she is a person of integrity – her words and deeds are not contradictory. She continues to see Jesus in the suffering of her fellow humans and remains pure in heart. It is rightly said that a tree is always recognised by its fruits; our faith in Jesus must be seen in our actions.





Word of God

Luke 6:43-45

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.”



Know Now: *Sr. Rani Maria* worked in Central India, very close to Indore at a place called Udaynagar. She was killed brutally but her family forgave her killer. The killer visits her grave every year as repentant. Read more about her on <http://www.blessedranimaria.com/>

Read: *Blessed Are the Pure in Heart* by John Piper on desiringgod.org : The heart is what you are, in the secrecy of your thought and feeling, when nobody knows but God. And what you are at the invisible root matters as much to God as what you are at the visible branch. “Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). From the heart originates all the issues of life. Three Questions – So let’s ask briefly in the moments we have:

1) What is it to see God? 2) What is it to be pure in heart? 3) How are these two things bound together?

Reading

Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thu _____

Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____ **Total** _____

Pages Minutes



Read about Archbishop Oscar Romero who saw Jesus in the oppressed and exploited people of El Salvador.

Bible@Home - Matthew 5: 8

MY TASK THIS WEEK

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