



December 1st, 2024

Sermon: Attitudes | A Pure Heart

Text: Main text: (Matthew 5:8), Psalm 24:3-4; James 4:4,7-8; James 4:7-8; Jeremiah 29:13

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does this story tell me about God?

2. What does this story tell me about people (or about myself)?

3. If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?

4. Who am I, going to tell?

Key points, and questions to reflect on and discuss from Craig's message:

Difference in the way we perceive the heart vs the way the heart was understood in Hebrew psychology or in Jewish thought... the crowd Jesus was speaking to

- o How do we view the heart?
 - o Usually as the source of emotion/affection/desires
 - o What is the biblical view of the heart?
 - o **The Center/core of the human person**
 - o Thought, emotions, will
 - o The seat of a person's collective energy – rational, emotional, volitional
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- Romans 12:1-2 – who is forming you... the world? Or Jesus?
 - Quote - **“the pure in heart are single minded in their devotion to live for Him [God]; their whole life is God-centered, and they seek to serve him above all else”**. Grant R Osborne – Zondervan Exegetical Commentary
 - Quote – **“Thou has made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” St. Augustine of Hippo, Confessions**
 - Another way of saying this might be... People who are clean at the center are centered on Jesus.

Closing Question – **At the Core of your being, are you centered on Jesus?**

Whereas many of the beatitudes speak of our need for God, this one speaks to our desire for God... how much do you want him? Are you seeking him? Thinking about him? Longing for Him? Willfully following him?

Back to the sermon series mash up...

The Arrival... and the Attitudes

- The Season of Advent is about the Incarnation – God came to us in the flesh... and the arrival of Jesus begs the question, how will I respond to Jesus? Jesus, the embodiment of the kingdom, has come. And he's inviting us to participate with him, in his kingdom work in our lives, and in his kingdom work in the world around us.
- how might you pursue single minded devotion to Jesus in this advent season? How might you center your life on him? (examples... spiritual practices, our worship gatherings, symbols we see at Christmas – ex. lights as a reminder of Jesus presence, etc)
- what a great season to focus on Jesus, to reorient our lives on him if we've drifted. To live out his kingdom attitudes so others might be drawn to him... and it starts at the core of who we are... by centering our thoughts, affections, and wills on Jesus...
- Intro to song as a response - Eyes locked on the king... as a statement of the posture of our hearts... single minded devotion... purity of a heart that's focused on Jesus... reflect on the message while the team leads us in this song and then I'll come back up to lead us in communion. **(Please go back to the sermon on-line to reflect on this aspect of the message.)**