



PART 7: BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

INTRODUCTION

What if the underlying spiritual issue facing the Church today is that we've failed to take Jesus seriously enough? What if much of the culture's judgment of Christians isn't the result of Christians obeying Jesus, but the result of Christians ignoring him? What could look differently in culture, and in our lives, if we lived like Jesus was serious?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:8
Isaiah 48:10

John 15:1-11
Job 42:5

James 1:2-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Will said that the heart is the spiritual center of life, where wants/desires, character (good/bad) reside. What do you think it means to be pure in heart? Have you ever heard this phrase before?
2. Can you think of a time when God was working in your life to make you more like Him? What was that season like? What changed in you through that season of purification?
3. Pastor Will broke down a few different ways in which we are purified. 1) through fire, like silver in a furnace that must become reflective 2) through pruning, like a tree must be pruned in order to bear fruit. What comes to mind when you think of these two examples of purification?
4. Read John 15:1-11. What are some ways that you can stay connected with Jesus? What are the outcomes for you when you are "joined to the vine?"
5. When we are purified, we are changed spiritually. We become connected to the Lord in new ways and God adds power to our prayers, and joy to our lives. Have you ever experienced these spiritual changes out of a season of purification? Share your experience with the group.
6. Read James 1:2-4. We all go through discouraging seasons of life, where there is true loss and difficulty, but when we see the outcomes of connecting with the Lord through these seasons- there is hope, and even joy. How does this reminder encourage you to keep going, and not give up in difficult times?

MOVING FORWARD

Application Prayer: Lord Jesus, please use these trials I am going through to draw me closer to you, and to see YOU.