

“Wonderful News for the Pure in Heart”

A BETTER LIFE Sermon Series | Week Five | Newbreak Church

October 10th, 2021

In this week’s study, Jesus teaches us about the pure in heart. We’ll look at how living a transparent and authentic life with God allows us to truly see Him.

Start Here

- If you could have an unlimited supply of a particular type of food, what would it be?
- What is one thing that you like most about the fall season?

Going Deeper Into the Message

Point 1 – God celebrates those who live unmasked lives.

[Matthew 5:8 \(Wright’s Translation\) Wonderful news for the pure in heart! You will see God.](#)

[Read also Luke 7:1-10](#)

We want to see God. We desire to see God face to face in all His glory. We would be pretty disappointed if we arrived before God and He was just putting on a show, wearing a mask and a costume and acting as if He wanted us there. We would feel jipped, as if He were a fraud. God wants our real selves when we come to Him. He already knows our real selves, but He wants us to trust Him enough to show Him who we really are. Being with a friend who is constantly pretending to be someone they are not doesn’t leave room to build a real relationship.

The same is true when we try to be someone we’re not with others, or with Jesus. A real relationship cannot form because the foundation is cracked, or is missing altogether.

The whole relationship will crumble at the first sign of trouble. If we're putting on a mask pretending to be someone we're not, pretending to have it all together, when hard times come, we will have no one to lean on. We will have no one to confide in and ask for help.

Being our real selves offers us the room we need to become better, become who God designed us to be. We can't become who we want to be if we're already pretending we are good and we don't need any improvement. When we are honest about who we are, with all of our hang ups and foibles, we allow God to fix our character and make us new. Psalms 24:3-4a says, "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart." When we ask Him to give us a pure heart, to create in us a pure heart, we get to see Him.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- In what areas of your heart do you think You need to be real with God right now? What part does He need to purify?
- Who have you been fake with recently and how can you start today to be authentic with that person? What does authenticity look like in that relationship? How do you think being transparent will impact that relationship over the next few months?
- Do you believe God will love you and desire the best for you if you are honest with Him about everything? If this is hard for you, what can you do to begin to believe the truth that you are loved and cherished by your Heavenly Father?

Point 2 – We can amaze Jesus when our faith is authentic.

[Luke 7:7b, 9](#) But say the word and my servant will be healed...When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him..."I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

With just a few words, the Centurion revealed his understanding of who Jesus was and what authority He possessed. His sincere faith and belief in the power of Christ amazed Jesus. I can only imagine seeing Jesus' face as the message was being shared with Him. The Centurion's willingness to take Jesus at His word and belief that He could do

anything made Jesus stop and acknowledge in front of everyone that this man's trust in God was very special. When we reflect on this narrative, we can learn a few things about the pure faith of the Centurion. First, his purity of heart was on display through his humble approach to Christ. He didn't feel worthy to have Jesus come under his roof (vs.6) and he didn't feel worthy enough to even see Jesus (vs.7). He knew that he was unworthy to be in the presence of the Lord. He didn't pretend to be humble. He was humble. Second, even though this Centurion didn't grow up as a Jew, his belief that Jesus was the Messiah was genuine and carried great conviction.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- How am I pretending with God right now in my life? How am I pretending to be something that I'm not with others?
- Has God revealed an area of your life where He wants you to take a bold step of faith? If so, what would be your first step?

—ACTIVITY—

Make confession a part of your week this week. Spend some time in prayer asking God to reveal areas you have not dealt with recently. Ask an accountability partner to be praying for you, to hear the voice of God. Then ask God to forgive those areas of your life and to redeem them, to make them new. Tell a safe friend, accountability partner, what God is doing in your life. Tell that person what you confessed and ask for continued prayer in this area.

If you do not yet have an accountability partner in your life, talk to your Life Group leader about how to start this process. Ask them to pray for God to provide the best person for you and for you to have wisdom in making this choice.

—FINAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS—

How are you going to think differently in light of what you have read, heard, and discussed this week?

What is one thing you are going to change in your life in light of the sermon?

BONUS: For those of you with kids or around kids: What is one truth from this message that you can share with your kids?