

Daily Reflection: Friday 4th June 2020

The Beatitudes - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Matthew 5⁸)

Written by Kevin Carlson

There is no hiding the fact that Christ calls one and all to high attainment; so high we may wonder if it could ever be possible (for me). What are we to make of Jesus saying further in verse 48 of chapter 5, **"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."** A pure heart without spot or blemish; perfect or holy as God is holy! Is this even realistic! Well, the truth of the matter is, yes; but we will not reach this state in our earthly life. The lie is, why then bother? So we can be prone to create our own set-point of ideals that are set by the ideals of others. 'Perfect' as said by Jesus, becomes the goal, the journey for the Christian in following Christ as Lord, all the days of our life. Jesus who leads also empowers and creates and enables....The truth is captured by the Apostle Paul, **"...I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me..."** (Galatians 2²⁰)

The lie is: I just need to be a good person. Does pure have more than one shade of white? To put this in some practical terms: the goal is to become more like Jesus, **"Forgive as the Lord forgave you."** (Col 3¹³) How has Jesus forgiven me....to what extent did you say? This becomes the goal, forever becoming. The same with all the instructions the Bible gives in human behaviour and human interactions. It all begins to make sense as we understand and know and believe in the God of the Bible. **"He (Jesus) is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature (perfect) in Christ..."** (Col 1²⁸)

This sixth Beatitude speaks of the blessedness of the pure in heart. Not the perfect yet, but the pure in heart, meaning, the single minded and undivided self who takes to task to follow Christ as Lord. Lord of life. To have this mindset the Bible takes on a more profound meaning; there are further depths to plummet....**"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."** (Matt 6²⁴)

Here the second part of the Beatitude comes into meaning: **"....for they shall see God."**

To see God is not to see his image but to have eyes that see the truth and the life and the value and the hope and eternity in God and the Kingdom given to those through Christ. To see God is to see God in contrast to the world we live in and the ways the world instructs how we should live and its temporality.

To see God, like being perfect, is just a glimpse of the yet to come **"....what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."** (1 John 3²)

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Prayer: *"Have mercy on me O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.....Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me....."* (Ps 51)

Hymn: ["Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see;
Open my eyes illumine me, Spirit divine."](#)