

# Introduction (cont'd)

- Week 1: The ***reality choice***
- Week 2: The ***hope choice***
- Week 3: The ***commitment choice***
- Week 4: The ***satisfaction choice***
- Week 5: The ***forgiveness choice***

# Introduction (cont'd)

- **The heart choice**: to have undivided affection toward Christ that overflows into my attitudes and actions.

# I. The Reality of Purity

- The word Jesus uses for pure is the Greek word "*katharos*."
- In its simplest form it means, "clean, without defect or blemish."

# The Reality of Purity (cont'd)

- In Jesus' day the primary use of the word had to do with ceremonial purity.
- He used the word, not as applied to ceremony but to the inward being.
- "*Katharos*" in Jesus' context means, "unmixed" or "undivided," without pollution in reference to a man's relationship to God.

# The Reality of Purity (cont'd)

- *It begins in the heart.*
- *"You are like whitewashed tombs— beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity!"(Mt. 23:27 NLT)*

# The Reality of Purity (cont'd)

- ***It is not external actions but internal attitudes.***
- Jesus is telling us a big piece of the puzzle for happiness is not what you do but who you are, not external action but internal attitudes.

## II. The Realization of Purity

- **1) Remember God sees everything**
- Prov. 5:21 (TEV), *"The Lord sees everything you do. Wherever you go, he is watching."*
- Matthew 6:4, 6 & 18, *"...the Father, who sees what is done in secret..."*

# The Realization of Purity (cont'd)

- Hebrews 4:13 (NIV), *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

# The Realization of Purity (cont'd)

- **2) Review my motives**
- I do an honest evaluation of, "Why do I do what I do?"
- Prov. 16:2 (NIV), *"All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD."*

## Matthew 6:2-3 (NIV)

- *“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...”*

# Matthew 6:5-6 (NIV)

- *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

# Matthew 6:16-18 (NIV)

- *“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

# The Realization of Purity (cont'd)

- **3) Realign my priorities**
- Exodus 20:3, *"You shall have no other God's before Me."*
- How do I know what my true priorities are? Here are 3 tests to check out your real preferences.

# The Realization of Purity (cont'd)

- *1) Look at your activities*
- I look at where I invest my time and my money.

## Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

- *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

# The Realization of Purity (cont'd)

- *2) Look at my anxieties*
- Matthew 6:25 Jesus says, *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry."*
- If you'll go through Mt. 6 starting with v.24 you'll find the 5 most common worries.

# The Realization of Purity (cont'd)

- ***Finances*** in v.24
- ***Food*** in v.25
- ***Fitness*** in v.27
- ***Fashion*** in v.28
- ***Future*** in v.34

# The Realization of Purity (cont'd)

- *3) Look at your ambitions*
- Your goals reveal the direction of your heart.

## Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)

- *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

# III. The Reward for Purity

- “I will see God.”
- **1) The pure in heart will see God in their lives daily.**
- Phil. 2:13 (LB), *“For God is at work within you, helping you to want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants.”*

# The Reward for Purity (cont'd)

- **2) The pure in heart are also confident that they will see God in the future.**
- 1 John 3:2 (NCV), *"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and we have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is."*

# Invitation

- Are you more focused on yourself or on the service of Christ?
- Are you at church to honor God or to fulfill a sense of obligation?
- Are you seeking a deeper relationship with God or just trying to be comfortable?