

## INTRO

- What is your favorite fall memory?
- What is your favorite warm drink?

## READ

Read Matthew 5:3-12

## REFLECT

The Blessed/Happy Life offered by Jesus is the life of true flourishing and well-being meant for us as humans. But it comes to us in such a counter-cultural way, we often struggle to truly align our lives with what Jesus says. The Beatitudes then are an opportunity for us to reorient our lives around the way of Jesus, the way of the happy life, the way of the kingdom.

### #6 HAPPY ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD

In Jesus' time one had to be ritually clean to access the Temple, where the presence of God dwelt. But we, just like the religious people of those days, are tempted to take purity to mean simply right behavior, but not aligning our hearts with God. In light of that, Jesus tells us that truly blessed are those whose hearts are pure.

*Qu: What pictures does 'purity' bring to your mind? What would you consider to be a pure life?*

Read James 4:8. The apostle James prescribes purity of heart to those who are 'double-minded', whose lives and loves are divided and in competition with one another. That means that purity of heart brings a certain 'single-mindedness' or singleness of pursuit to our hearts.

*Qu: What do you think it means to be 'double-minded'? How does a 'single-minded' heart compare to that kind of life?*

Finally, it is clear throughout the Bible that much of what we desire have its source in the things we see and pay attention to. In Matthew 6:22 Jesus contrasts a bad eye that brings darkness with a 'single' eye that gives light to the whole body. That is, to have eyes to only one thing, God, is to live in the light.

*Qu: Have you noticed how the things you love and the things you pursue in life are related to what you put before your eyes every day? How can we better curate what we see, and thus desire?*

In light of that, we must take inventory of our loves in all honesty before God and invite him to search our innermost being (Ps 139:23). And then, we must turn our eyes to Jesus, who show us the love of God that motivates our own love for him (1 John 4:19) and that purifies our heart by faith (Acts 15:9).

*Qu: In light of today's discussion, is there anything in the state of your loves that you wish were different? How can Jesus bring purity to your heart and harmony to your loves?*

## RESPOND &amp; PRAY

- What encouraged/challenged you the most from this discussion?
- Spend time praying for one another and those you know who need to hear the good news of salvation.