

**What it means to be merciful and  
have a clean heart.**

**Matthew 5:7-8  
March 16, 2025  
Pastor Nick Lee**



# **Blessed ("Happy")**

To be blessed is to  
have an awareness  
of being approved  
by God.

# Is God GOOD?



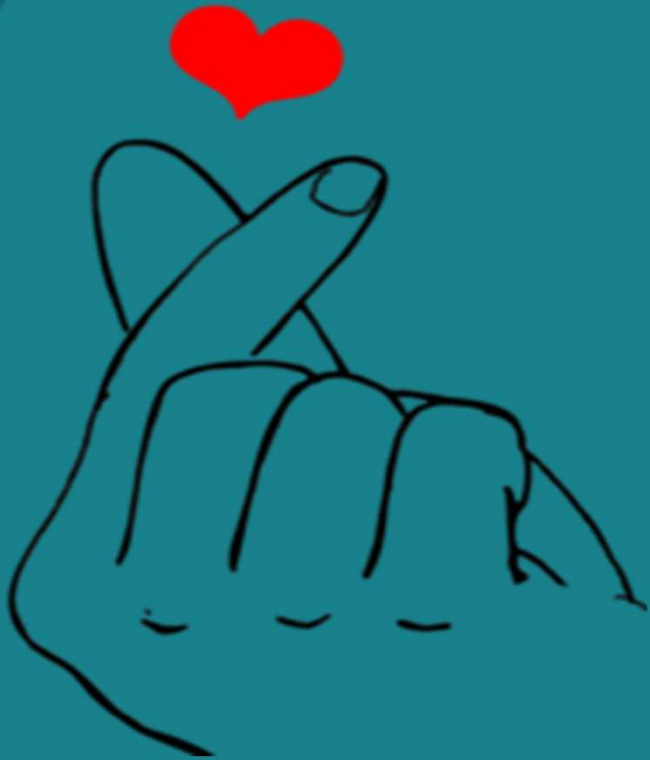
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## **Flip it (Blessed): awareness of being approved by God.**


- Poor in Spirit: When you realize that you are spiritually bankrupt, then you'll stop relying on your own righteousness and exchange it for Jesus' righteousness.
  - (Yours and yours alone is the Kingdom of Heaven – now and forevermore).
- Mourn: Over their personal sins and unrighteousness and those of the world. We are humbled because we tend to minimize our own sinfulness and maximize the sins of others.
- We will be comforted. (To have God's heart as we view the world).

## **Flip it (Blessed): awareness of being approved by God.**

- Meek: gentle/humble/lowly. Balanced anger-
  - strength under control.
  - (Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane).
- Inherit the earth: “Be at Peace with God.”
  - Hunger and thirst for righteousness.
    - They will be filled.
- We cannot even imagine how much more of God that there is that we have yet to encounter.



**“Eye has not seen, nor  
ear heard. Nor have  
entered into the heart of  
man. The things which  
God has prepare for  
those who love Him.”  
1 Corinthians 2:9  
(NKJV)**



**Blessed are the merciful for  
they shall obtain mercy.  
Matthew 5:7 (NKJV)**

**Grace is shown to the undeserving.  
Mercy is compassion to the miserable.**

**GRACE**

**{“Gift”}- gives us His righteousness (through Christ) to save us from the penalty and guilt of sin to bring us in relationship with Himself.**

**MERCY**

**God not punishing us for our sins, instead punishing His only begotten Son Jesus.  
God’s grace is a mercy to us.**



## **GREEK:**

**(“eleos”) – refers to the emotion one feels (quite often compassion) when they come in contact with someone in affliction and that later came to include acts of help to those in need.**

**BIBLICAL: SEE / FEEL / DO**

**SEE / FEEL / DO (story of GS in Luke 10:30-37).**

**(33) But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he **SAW** him, he **FELT COMPASSION**. (34) and came to him and **\*(DO)** bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.**

**Luke 10:33-34**

**\*Added by P Nick for sermon purposes.**

**SEE / FEEL / DO (story of GS-Luke 10:30-37).**

**Moral of the Story:**

**(36) Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man?” (37) The one who **SHOWED MERCY** towards him.”**

**Priest, Levite, and a Samaritan.**

**It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world which does not know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all tis on His own, with no help from us! (Put Jesus on the Cross- Nick Note) Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.**

**Ephesians 2:1-6 (THE MESSAGE)**

## **Examples from Jesus' ministry:**

**-Matthew 9:36- “Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them (10:1- He sent out His disciples to minister to them).**

**-Matthew 14:14 “An when He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them, and healed their sick.**

**-Mark 6:34- “He saw a large crowd, and he felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.”**

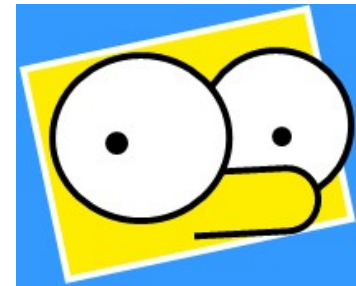
**Luke 7:13-15: “And when the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, ‘do not weep’ and He came up and touched the coffin. (And raised her son from the dead).**

**Luke 15:20 (Prodigal Son): “.. The father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. (Tim Keller thought)**

# **SEE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS**

**We need to see the needs of those  
around us.**

**(Change the way that we look at  
other people).**



# **FEEL COMPASSION LIKE JESUS**

**(The Dane Ortlund story):**

**“Fallen emotions not only sinfully  
OVERreact; they also sinfully  
UNDERreact. Sin keeps us from  
caring, even in situations in life that we  
do see.”**

## **DO– God Cares about our Attitude and Action.**

**“Therefore, to him who knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin.”**

**-James 4:17**

**“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in Him.”**


**-1 John 3:17**



FORGIVEN  
MUCH,  
LOVES MUCH.  
FORGIVEN  
LITTLE,  
LOVES LITTLE.



**“For this reason, I say to you her sins, which are many, have been forgiven for she loved much, but the one who has been forgiven little, loves little.”  
Luke 7:47 (NASB)**



**Blessed are pure in heart  
for they shall see God.  
Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)**

# **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PURE OF HEART?**

**(3) Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in his holy place. (4) He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Psalm 24:3-4 (NKJV)**

**\*\*Talk about OT concept of heart. (Includes mind, innermost being– Deep within him).**

**Word Studies: “pure” – focus, absorption, concentration, sincerity and singleness.**

**“Citizens of the Kingdom need to remember that God is more concerned with our inward character than our outward conduct, our attitudes more than our actions. ... The condition of your heart, the inner person, the real you is critically important to Jesus. It should be equally important to us.”**  
**-Kent Hughes**

**“To be pure in heart means a heart that does not bring mixed motives and divided loyalties to its relationship with God. It is a heart of singleness in devotion to God—pure, unmixed devotion.”**  
**-Kent Hughes**

# **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PURE OF HEART?**

**OT: “Katharos” (Clean).**

**Pharisee: “Why do your disciples eat with impure (unwashed) hands?” Jesus’ reply: “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the precepts of men.” (Mark 7:1-7 summarized)**

**Worried- about “other things being mixed” into the food (dirty stuff).**

# **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PURE OF HEART?**

**“I the Lord, search the heart; I test the mind.”  
-Jeremiah 17:10**

**“God cares about our heart and our minds. He cares  
more about our **INWARD** purity than he does about  
our **OUTWARD** purity.**

**“Blessed are those who are pure, not only on the surface but in the center of their being and at the source of every activity.”**  
**-Martin Lloyd Jones**



**FEEL COMPASSION LIKE JESUS –  
these beatitudes build off each other.**

**Stranger to Helen Keller: “Isn’t it  
terrible to be blind?”**

**Helen: “Better to be blind and see with  
your heart, than to have two good eyes  
and see nothing.”**

**“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.  
-James 4:8**

**Be less concerned about: “How we look to others.” &  
“What we do for God.”**

**BE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT: OUR HEARTS.**

**-Not just am I reading my Bible, but Do I delight in the  
Law of the Lord?**

**-Not just am I talking to people about Jesus, but Do I  
Love People?**

**-Not just am I giving, but am I thankful?**

**-Not am I serving God, but DO I Love Him?**

**Be honest with God about your heart's condition.**

**Acknowledge that only God can make your heart pure.**

**Fill yourselves with God's Word.**

**Christ be with me, Christ before me.  
Christ behind me, Christ in me.  
Christ beneath me. Christ above me.  
Christ on my right. Christ on my left.  
Christ where I am. Christ where I sit.  
Christ where I arise. Christ in the heart  
of every man who thinks of me.  
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me.  
Christ in every eye that sees me.  
Christ in every ear that hears me.**

**Prayer of St. Patrick**