



THEY'RE AUTHENTIC

February 14, 2021

Matthew 5:8

Pastor Daniel Hahn

MESSAGE NOTES

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. — Matthew 5:8

1. Sincerely seeking God

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. — Luke 6:45

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. — Matthew 6:33

The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says, "Give Me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You ... No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down ... Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked — the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. I will give you Myself: My own will shall become yours. — C. S. Lewis, *The Joyful Christian*

- Jeremiah 17:10 — *I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, ...*
- Daniel 2:22 — *He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness,*
- Hebrews 4:13 — *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.*

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, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. — Psalm 24:3 – 4

2. Being honest with myself

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. — Psalm 51:10

There is tremendous relief in knowing that His love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion Him about me, in the way that I am so often disillusioned about myself. In other words, there is incredible hope for those who are disappointed in themselves. — David Jeremiah

3. Relating with authenticity

In the place of our woundedness we construct a false self. When I was eight the impostor, or false self, was born as a defense against pain. The impostor within whispered, "Brennan, don't ever be your real self anymore because nobody likes you as you are. Invent a new self that everybody will admire and nobody will know."

— Brennan Manning, *The Furious Longing of God*

Hypocrisy is deliberate deception, trying to make people think we are something we're not.

I must catch myself doing "image management," stop it and immediately be real. If I only show my "mask," people can only love the mask and never know or love me. I will never feel love without exposing the "real me" to those who can love me. — Regi Campbell, *Radical Mentoring*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Looking back over your notes, was there one idea that really impacted you from the message this past weekend?
- What sort of things come to mind when you think of the word “purity” or “integrity?” What do you think Jesus meant?
- What did Jesus mean by the reference to our heart when it comes to purity?
- How is purity both an inner quality as well as a characteristic that deeply impacts our relationships?
- What are some words you would use to describe someone who has integrity?
- In what way does our society downgrade or downplay the need for inner integrity or purity?
- Do you think most people pursue integrity or are they more concerned with image management? What examples can you give?
- What in our culture makes this character quality such a challenge for most people?
- In what ways did Jesus demonstrate this sort of purity?
- In what ways does purity allow us to experience God even before we see Him face to face in heaven?
- What sort of things could we do this week to pursue integrity? What kind of difference would that make both in the short term as well as in the long run?