

Matthew 5:1-12--Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Why Do We Do What We Do?

Proverbs 4:23--Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Matthew 15:18-20--But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'...

God's Demand

Matthew 5:48--Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:3-8; Romans 5:1; Romans 6-8; Romans 3:23; John 3:1-21.

Psalm 24:3,4--Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol.

Psalm 51:6--Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Psalm 19:14--May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

God's Dream

1 Samuel 13:14--But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command.

1 Samuel 16:7--The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

God wants us to grow.

2 Corinthians 7:1--Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

1. _____.
2. _____ ourselves.
3. _____.
4. _____ holiness.
5. _____.

How?

James 4:7,8--Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1. _____ yourselves to God.
2. _____ the devil.
3. _____ to God.
4. _____ your hands.
5. _____ yourself.

Hebrews 12:14--Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What makes most people happy? What is the source of their happiness? How long does it last?
2. Review the points and verses from this lesson. What personal application can you make from this teaching?
3. How does Secret #6 lead to happiness? Why does being pure in heart lead to happiness?
4. Take some time right now to pray for the needs of those in your small group.