

Blessed (Week 7)

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I. Review

What does it mean to be blessed?

BLESSING means to be on the receiving end of the tangible and intangible favor of God.

The question is ... "AM I "BLESS-ABLE?".

Blessed are the...

Last week - Blessed are the merciful

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7 (NIV84)

⁸*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* Matthew 5:8 (NIV84)

II. What does it mean to be **pure in heart**?

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. Matthew 6:1 (NIV84)

1. Remember God **sees it all**

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.* Hebrews 4:13 (NIV84)

2. Continue to examine your **own motives**

⁵*Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."*

⁷*This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.* Haggai 1:5–7 (NIV84)

3. Keep my **priorities** pure.

⁴*On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.* 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NIV84)

Please God - you will please the right people

Please God – you will make the right people angry.

III. How do I become a person of **integrity**?

1. By keeping **your promises** – This is verbal integrity.

Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give. Proverbs 25:14 (NIV84)

If you've made a promise you've got to keep your word, even if it is not beneficial to you.

who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, Psalm 15:4 (NIV84)

2. By paying **your bills** – This is financial integrity.

²¹*The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;* Psalm 37:21 (NIV84)

⁶*This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.* Romans 13:6–7 (NIV84)

³⁴*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Luke 12:34 (NIV84)

⁸*"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. ⁹You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. ¹⁰Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Malachi 3:8–10 (NLT)*

God wants to know - Do you have the integrity to put me first in your finances?

3. By refusing to gossip – This is relational integrity.

²⁸*A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.* Proverbs 16:28 (NIV84)

The Bible makes it clear that when you gossip - you lack integrity.

¹⁶*There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: ¹⁷haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, ¹⁹a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.* Proverbs 6:16–19 (NIV84)

⁵*Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.* Psalm 101:5 (NIV84)

4. By doing your best at work – This is business integrity.

⁹*One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.* Proverbs 18:9 (NIV84)

²³*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.* Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV84)

IV. They will see God

⁸*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* Matthew 5:8 (NIV84)

¹⁰*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.* Psalm 51:10 (NIV84)

Three key words from David in Psalm 51:10 – Create, Renew, & Steadfast

⁸*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* Matthew 5:8 (NIV84)