

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	Integrity: Don't Leave Home Without It
SERMON REFERENCE:	Matthew 5:8
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1661

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The Lord Jesus teaches us in the Beatitudes that character is far more important than anything else.
 - i) The Beatitudes deal with character.
 - (1) They are the attitudes that ought to be.
- b) It has been said that a child rejoices in what he has, a youth rejoices in what he does, and an adult rejoices in what he is.
 - i) The more mature we are as Christians, the more we will rejoice, not in what we have or what we do, but in what we are through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) Matthew 5:1-8
- d) There is an integrity crisis in America.
 - i) Underneath all of the scandals and problems is an integrity crisis.
- e) Today's message deals with integrity and mentions three specific things as we look at the Beatitude found in Matthew 5:8.

2) THE PRINCIPLE OF INTEGRITY

- a) Matthew 5:8
 - i) The word "pure" in this Scripture is the word from which we get our English word "catharsis."
 - (1) "Catharsis" means "a purifying."
 - ii) This word does not have to do so much with cleanliness (although that is inferred) as it does with unity or singleness of heart or mind.
 - iii) It literally means "blessed is that which is unmixed."
 - (1) For example, grain with chaff in it is not pure.
 - (2) Metal with alloy in it is not pure.
 - iv) Therefore, when the Lord says, "Blessed are the pure in heart," He is saying, "Blessed are those who have integrity, those who do not have divided hearts."
 - (1) It means "singleness of heart."
- b) Matthew 6:24
 - i) You cannot be double-minded.
- c) We cannot have an impure heart and see God.
 - i) If we want to worship God, then we must do so without duplicity or hypocrisy.
- d) James 4:4
 - i) The word "enmity" here means "warfare."
 - ii) We cannot hold the world with one hand and Jesus Christ with the other.
- e) James 4:8
 - i) "Ye double-minded" here literally means in the Greek "you two-souled, double-souled people."
 - (1) He is saying that they have spiritual schizophrenia.
 - ii) We have to have a single mind if we are going to serve the Lord.
- f) King David was a man after God's own heart.

- i) Acts 13:22
- ii) David illustrates integrity and the pure in heart.
- iii) When God was wanting a king over Israel, God did not measure David by his height or size; God put the tape measure around David's heart.
- iv) 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 - (1) 1 Samuel 16:7
 - (a) Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.
 - (2) God wanted David because he was a man after God's own heart.
 - (a) Acts 13:22
- v) A man after God's own heart is a man with integrity.
 - (1) The following verses that David wrote show us what made him the man he was:
 - (a) Psalm 7:8
 - (i) David was not double-minded.
 - (b) Psalm 25:21
 - (i) This was David's prayer.
 - (ii) David knew that when he waited on God, his great resource was his integrity.
 - (c) Psalm 26:1, 11
 - (d) Psalm 41:12
- vi) David's heart was a pure heart.
 - (1) The word "pure" means "integrity" and "single-mindedness."
- vii) David sinned horribly, and he failed God.
 - (1) David was not a hypocrite.
 - (a) When David sinned, it broke his heart as well as God's.
 - (b) David never offered an alibi; he offered a confession.
 - (i) Psalm 51:4
 - (2) David was not sinless, but he had a single heart.
- g) The principle of integrity is to be single-minded, not double-souled, and to love God with all our heart.

3) THE PLACE OF INTEGRITY

- a) Matthew 5:8
- b) When the Bible uses the word "heart," it's not talking about the muscle that pumps the blood.
 - i) It is talking about the core of the individual, the inner person.
- c) The heart speaks of total commitment.
- d) The heart is the core of the individual.
 - i) It is the part of the individual that dictates the character, directs the will and dominates affections.
 - ii) Proverbs 4:23
 - iii) If we are going to be pure, then we must be pure in heart before we can be pure any other way.
- e) Jeremiah 17:9-10

- i) The heart is diseased.
 - (1) Jeremiah 17:9
 - (a) The phrase “desperately wicked” literally means “incurably sick.”
 - (i) This same word used for “desperately wicked” is also used in Jeremiah 15:18.
 - (2) All the spiritual exercise and all of the spiritual diet in the world will not cure the disease of our hearts.
 - (3) Many people don’t understand that their problem is their heart, and they’re trying to medicate their heart when they really need a heart transplant.
 - (a) They are trying to somehow cure the problem of sin.
 - (b) But even if we reform on the outside, we haven’t dealt with the problem of the heart.
 - (i) The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart.
 - (4) Reformation is not enough; we need regeneration.
 - (a) If an alcoholic quits drinking without getting saved, all that means is that he will go to Hell sober.
 - (i) He still needs to be saved.
 - (b) The problem is not on the outside, primarily, but on the inside.
 - (5) Mark 7:20-23
 - (a) All of these things are in our hearts.
 - (b) All of these things are residual and potential in every human heart.
 - (c) Everything that we see wrong in the world today has originated in the heart of men.
- ii) The heart is deceitful.
 - (1) Jeremiah 17:9
 - (a) The word “deceitful” is the same as the name “Jacob.”
 - (i) The name “Jacob” means “supplanter,” “con-artist.”
 - 1. Jesus has transformed that name to mean “prince” today.
 - 2. Jacob is one of the brightest stars in the Hebrew Heaven, but he wasn’t until the Spirit of God changed him.
 - (ii) The name “Jacob” basically meant “deceiver.”
 - (iii) Jacob deceived his father.
 - 1. Genesis 27:1-29
 - a. Like many Christians today, Isaac made a mistake by going by feeling rather than by the Word.
 - (b) Our hearts are a Jacob that will deceive to get what it wants.
 - (2) The most deceitful thing in all of the world is the human heart.
 - (a) It is so foolish to follow this world that says to let conscience be your guide.
 - (b) You can be sincere, but if your heart is deceitful, you will be sincerely wrong.
 - (3) Proverbs 28:26

- (4) People will say, "Well, if I know my heart..."
 - (a) The problem is that we don't know our own hearts.
- iii) The diagnosis of the heart:
 - (1) Jeremiah 17:10
 - (a) We cannot search our own hearts.
 - (i) How can Jacob investigate Jacob?
 - (ii) How can Mr. Nixon investigate Watergate?
 - (iii) It is impossible for a deceitful heart to try to diagnose a deceitful heart.
 - (2) God Himself must diagnose our hearts.
 - (a) God reviews the heart.
 - (i) Jeremiah 17:10
 - 1. "I search the heart" means "an intense review."
 - (ii) God sees the things that we cannot see.
 - (b) God reveals the heart.
 - (i) Jeremiah 17:10
 - 1. The reins are the control center.
 - (ii) God allows circumstances to come into our lives, and He sees how we react to those circumstances.
 - 1. If our actions do not prove what we are, then our reactions do.
 - a. If we are rude to someone, the other person did not make us rude.
 - b. They just revealed the anger that is in us.
 - i. They did not put the rudeness in us.
 - ii. The rudeness was already there.
 - (c) God rewards the heart.
 - (i) When God comes to judge, He will look primarily not at what we did but what we are.
 - (ii) 1 Corinthians 4:5
 - (iii) God sees the heart.
 - (iv) Matthew 5:8
 - 1. It is the heart that is the place of integrity.
- iv) The doctor of the heart:
 - (1) Jeremiah 17:14
 - (a) We need to be born again.
 - (b) God changes us by giving us a new heart.
 - (2) Jeremiah 24:7
 - (a) When God saves us, He gives us a new heart.
 - (3) We cannot be pure in heart without a new heart.
 - (a) First, you must see yourself as a bankrupt sinner.
 - (i) Matthew 5:3
 - (b) You are broken over your sin and condition.
 - (i) Matthew 5:4

- (c) You yield yourself to God.
 - (i) Matthew 5:5
 - (d) God puts a hunger in you.
 - (i) Matthew 5:6
 - 1. This righteousness is Jesus.
 - (ii) You have a hunger and thirst for the Lord Jesus.
 - (e) God gives you mercy.
 - (i) Matthew 5:7
 - (f) You then have a pure heart.
 - (i) Matthew 5:8
- (4) It is a work of God.
 - (a) Jesus will give you a brand-new heart.

4) THE PROMISE OF INTEGRITY

- a) Matthew 5:8
 - i) We will see God.
- b) Sin blinds us.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - (1) They are blind to their sin and to the danger.
 - (2) They are blind to God.
- c) People want to see God.
 - i) They have done everything trying to see God.
 - (1) They fast, they pray, they give their money, they go on pilgrimages, etc.
 - ii) The way to know God and to see God is to get your heart pure.
 - (1) You will then see with the eye of faith.
 - (2) Get your spiritual heart right, and your spiritual eye will see.
- d) Hebrews 11:27
 - i) When we get our hearts right, then we will see the invisible.
 - (1) We will see God.
 - (a) We will see Him in nature.
 - (b) We will see Him in circumstances.
 - (c) We will see Him in the Scriptures.
- e) God will become a bright, living reality to you.
 - i) The Bible will burst aflame in your hands.
 - ii) You will see Him and perceive Him.
 - iii) You will know Him because your heart is pure.
- f) Matthew 6:22

5) CONCLUSION

- a) There are times when our hearts get cold, and we get so busy with other things that we get away from God.
 - i) We need to get alone with Him and start giving back to God those things that we've taken.

- (1) It all belongs to Him.
 - (a) Our abilities
 - (b) Our family
 - (c) Our possessions
- ii) We need to become single-minded in wanting God and Him only.
 - (1) When our eyes get single, then our bodies get full of light.
 - (a) Matthew 6:22
 - (b) And you will see God.
- b) Do you want integrity today?
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16