

## WHO WANTS TO SEE GOD?

In many ancient cultures, and to a degree even today, very few people were able to be around the king. Thus, to “see the king” meant something. It was reserved for special friends, counselors, and dignitaries. In Matthew 5:8, Jesus says, “*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*” In other words, if you want to be in that inner circle of people allowed to be face to face with God, if you want to be considered one of the special friends of God, you must be pure in heart.

What does it mean to be pure in heart? We know that it cannot mean to be totally without sin, for then Jesus himself would be the only one to qualify. Therefore it must mean something else. Think pure in the sense of pure motivation or pure devotion. We need to mesh our hearts and our actions. Someone who is simply going through the motions of doing what is right is not pure in heart, and will not be accepted by God. “*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves...every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*” (Matthew 7:15, 19). Likewise, someone who may desire to serve God but does not is not acceptable. “*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*” (Matthew 7:21). Only when we merge the two will we be acceptable.

Consider some examples that we have: David is referred to as a man after God’s own heart, yet we know that he had problems with sin. Elijah was stout and strong in faith, yet we see that he struggled with weakness. Peter, one of the twelve and an elder in the church sometimes caved into peer pressure. Sarah and Abraham were prone to doubting and lying, but they are counted as righteous. The list could go on for many pages, just read Hebrews chapter eleven and see.

These individuals are no different than you and I. These people desired to serve God, and so they did. When they failed, they repented and moved on (1 John 1:9). It takes dedication and desire and much effort (“*let him deny himself and take up his cross daily*” Luke 9:23), but these are the kind that will see God as a friend. Everyone will see God and Christ as a judge (and every knee will bow), but wouldn’t you like to see them as a friend?

**MJW**