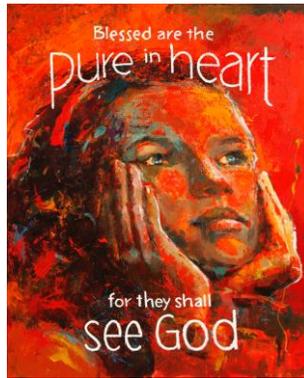


THEY SHALL SEE GOD



Pure in Heart Hyatt Moore

***“Blessed are the pure in heart
For they shall see God.”***

A stranger wrestled with Jacob all night long. As dawn approached the stranger said,

“Let me go, for day is breaking.”

“I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

Jacob limped away with a wounded thigh and a heart that was changed forever.

He called the place “Penuel” (Pene Elohim---**the face of God**) for he had seen God face-to-face and lived.

It was not a joyful encounter. It was violent. God could have snuffed out his life at any moment, but he let Jacob struggle.

You could call it Jacob’s wrestling match with God.

Or you could call it Jacob’s night of exhausting prayer to the only hope he had left.

***“Blessed are the pure in heart
For they shall see God.”***

So what is a pure heart?

A pure heart is a heart that opens itself wide to God, concealing nothing.

A pure heart is a heart that loosens its grip on everything else and clings to God alone.

No more grudges.

No more greed.

No more vanity and lies.

Jacob was no saint. He was a schemer and a cheat.

So what was it that purified his heart?

Desperation.

Jacob was trapped. His father-in-law, Laban was pursuing him from behind. His brother Esau, who had threatened to kill him, was waiting up the road.

Jacob put his wives and his children, his servants and his cattle across the river and was alone with nothing but his own naked need.

Now Jacob's heart was melting in the fire of desperation. Stripped bare of every distraction, Jacob was finally ready.

***“Blessed are the pure in heart
For they shall see God.”***

Until that night Jacob was unaware that his life had always been lived on the edge of desperation.

Now he knew.

And in the anguish of this encounter Jacob's eyes were opened to behold the living God.



Tangled Blessing
Lauren Wright Pittman Sanctified Art

***“Blessed are the pure in heart
For they shall see God.”***

Like Jacob, we too live on the edge of desperation 24/7, unaware of how fragile we are.

Until one day we are awakened.

It can happen while we're walking down the street, or lying in a hospital bed, or sitting in church or talking with a friend. We could be alone in our room with the door shut, crying out to God, our only hope.

Suddenly our eyes are opened.

***“Blessed are the pure in heart
For they shall see God.”***

Many centuries later a young prophet went up to the Temple to pray. Was he desperate? Was his back to the wall? Only God knows.

What we do know is that Isaiah was soon beside himself with dread, desperate in the face of blinding glory.

In the year that King Uzzi'ah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Isaiah 6



Isaiah 6 Melani Pyke

Young Isaiah walked down from the Temple a changed man. In an hour of desperation his heart had been purified, his eyes had been opened.

Isaiah had seen the Lord!

His life was no longer his own. He was under the call of heaven.

*“Blessed are the pure in heart
For they shall see God.”*

Purity of heart occurs when all distractions are burned away and we are focused on “the one thing needful”.

When we finally realize that God is our only hope, our only strength, our only salvation, our eyes open and we begin to see.

As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" In his desperation this man ignored those rebuking voices and kept crying out to Jesus. And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Luke 18



Siloam
Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Sanctified Art

In his desperation, while he was still blind, this man saw what no one else could see.

He saw his Messiah!

He saw God in the flesh.

Lord Jesus, purify our hearts in the cleansing fire of your Spirit!

That we may have eyes to see what that man saw!

Prayer - Gracious Lord, like Jacob we continue to wrestle. We continue to struggle with opening our hearts wide to you so they can be purified so that we can truly see you and receive your blessing. Our lack of vision, our blindness has pushed us to the point of desperation. Without you we are blind, stumbling, lost. Purify us. Open our eyes to see your holiness. We want to see you. We want to see you. You are our hope, our strength and our song.

Message written 1983 REB

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

