

## Series: UP, UP & Away!!!

### Title: Lessons on the Beatitudes – Part 3

#### Main Text: Matthew 5:8-9

#### Welcome: 15 mins. Max.

Option 1: Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers.  
Option 2: Share something about your experiences (up or down moments) during the past week.

Example: "This week, I experienced \_\_\_\_\_ moments that \_\_\_\_\_."

#### Word: 40 mins. max.

**Intro:** We live in such a world full of troubles, heart aches, pain, animosity, chaos, etc. Our world needs hope and peace that can only come from God. But before all these things happen, we all need to begin finding personal peace with then Author of Peace - God. First and foremost, peace with men begins with peace with God. It starts with a relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### Discussion:

**1. Blessed are the pure in heart – they will see God** (v.8). What do you mean by being "pure in heart?"

**2. Pure in heart** *"are those who are inwardly clean from sin through faith in God's provision and a continual acknowledging of their sinful condition."*

Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). Matthew. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 29). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

How do you know when your sins have been forgiven by God and that your heart is pure before Him?

3. In 1 John 1:5-10 - *"This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us."* Which of the above verses gave you inward assurance of God's peace and forgiveness?

4. In Psalm 32:1-5 - *"Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night*

*your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin."* In the verses we read above, how does one receive forgiveness?

5. We read in Isaiah 1:18, *"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."* What is God's invitation to anyone who has sinned against Him?

6. According to Psalm 103:12, *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."* What is your understanding of the extent of God's forgiveness?

#### 7. Blessed are the peacemakers - they will be called children of God.

God is a peacemaker between Himself and man. He made a way for peace to be possible between a holy God and sinful humanity through Jesus' sacrifice:

8. We read in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."* We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, *as though God were making his appeal through us."*

What do you mean by "reconciliation?" How do you feel about being Christ's ambassadors?

#### Wrap up:

We ourselves received forgiveness from our sins the moment we placed our faith in Christ. This is what brings us peace with God! We also came to know that God *"reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation and committed to us the message of reconciliation."* What a blessing to know that God has entrusted us with a message to share to others. Why not begin telling people that a relationship with God is possible.

#### Summary:

God wants us to live with a pure heart before Him. He also wants to use you and me to lead people to a path of reconciliation with God through a personal relationship with Him. So let us live a life of forgiveness and righteousness because of Christ's death on the cross.

#### Prayer for one another.

Ask each member of the group of their prayer needs. Assign prayer partners.