

Beatitudes for the Workplace - #6

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God



The Beatitudes (Mt 5: 1-12) are Jesus' promises to bless us. His promises include our work, since working is how we spend most of our waking time and energies. Following is an explanation of *pureness in heart* in the context of our work.

Explanation:

1) *Blessed* tells us what Jesus does. Blessing helps us experience the purpose of life, which is *to be with God*, fully. God's will is to bless us, enabling us to experience life as it can be only with God – not as the world promises or imposes.

2) *Pure in heart* refers to how we respond to Jesus. '*Pure in heart*' is not how we would normally describe humanity. Many workplace cultures foster selfishness, competitive ambition, deceit, and greed. Moreover, some industries and companies reward the behaviors and their fruits. Making matters worse, our social and economic values emphasize 'instant gratification.'

The values just mentioned are the antithesis of God's. What Jesus' Beatitude tells us is: when we honor God's values (turn from sinfulness to put God's priorities first, seeking what God would have us focus on), then, we 'see' God...

3) *See God* is a metaphor for experiencing God's transforming presence in our lives. God helps us do this by making real the possibilities and dreams which we could only try to imagine. *Seeing God* means experiencing God's presence richly in our hearts and minds, values and work, personally and in our workplaces. Life's purpose then becomes fully alive!

So What:

Skeptics argue that *pure in heart* and *seeing God* are unreal. *To be pure* is beyond human capability, requiring unrealistic, otherworldly behaviors. *Seeing God* is impossible, since God is (supposed to be) spirit! But, these objections confuse metaphors and facts.

Jesus' Beatitude used metaphors to carry us beyond a lot of verbiage, and convey a complex point, simply and clearly. His metaphor means: *I want you to experience your life and work as blessings. I want this because I love and care for you. Turn to me. Then, you will experience your life and work as they can be - with God!*

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