

## “What’s going on?”

+ Women's Prayer & Praise, July 15th 6:30-8pm: We'd love to have you join us for our 3rd Women's Prayer & Praise Night. We hope that this will be an evening of encouragement and celebration, where we can build relationship with one another and with Christ. Come as you are! We can't wait to see you. Childcare and light refreshments available

+ Be Love- July & August: As a church, we want to love and support our community. Join us over the months of July & August in going above and beyond in serving, loving, and supporting our partners at Horizons Social Services. Horizons provides food and support to the most vulnerable in our community and their food pantry informed us that they are in constant need of laundry detergent. This summer we want to meet that need. Join us in July & August as we bring liquid laundry detergent to church each Sunday and show the love of Jesus to our community.

## MATTHEW 5:8

### ICE BREAKER

Back in 2015 there was a big disagreement among viewers on the color of this dress.

**Question:** What color is this dress in this image?



(Pass out the chocolates for everyone to try)

Both of these bars are called chocolate, yet they don't taste the same. One is really chocolate and one isn't.

**Question:** Which one is pure? Which one do you like better?

## CENTERING FOCUS

Read Psalm 51:10 aloud, a few times. Spend 5 minutes in silence meditating on this verse.

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.”*

## LAST WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Last week’s challenge was to continue in our practice of observation.

**Question:** Whether you were completing your first 20 observations, or you added 20 more, how was this experience for you? Was it difficult? Frustrating? Rewarding? Enjoyable?

## THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION

**Question:** What are some of your guilty pleasures; things you do that you know you shouldn’t do? What excuses do you usually make for yourself?

**Question:** If you were to ask, most people in our culture would say, “I’m a good person.” What do you think they mean by “good person”?

## ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 5:8-** *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*

**Question:** What does purity mean to you? What comes to mind? Is purity desirable in our culture? (\*see end of lead sheet for definition)

**Question:** According to this passage, who is going to see God?

**Question:** What does it mean to see God? How do we see God? (Refer to 1 Timothy 1:5, 1 John 4:7-8, & 1 John 4:12 for help)

**Question:** If everyone saw all of your secret thoughts and emotions do you think they'd describe your heart as pure? How would you describe your heart?

**Question:** How do you think having an unclean or impure heart hinders us from seeing God rightly?

**Matthew 12:33-35-** *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34</sup>You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.<sup>35</sup>The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.*

\*Jesus had just healed a demon-oppressed man and was accused by the Pharisees as healing through demonic powers. Jesus rebukes them, and then shares with them this analogy about the tree. In Jesus' days the Pharisees were the elite, religious leaders of the day. They focused on and valued keeping the law perfectly, and judged others around them who did not follow the law according to the standards they had set.

**Question:** What does Jesus call the Pharisees? Who else is known as a snake or serpent in scripture? What then does this tell us about how Jesus views their actions?

**Question:** What type of fruit is Jesus comparing? Is there any room okay fruit mentioned in this passage?

**Question:** Think back on a conversation with coworkers, spouse, kids, or friend this week. If our words reflect our hearts, would you consider your heart good or bad? Why?

**Ezekiel 36:25-27-** *“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”*

**Question:** According to this passage, what kind of hearts do we all have until God gives us a new one?

**Question:** How does God give us a new heart? What does this new heart allow us to do?

**Question:** What fruit then does this new heart produce with the Spirit? (see Galatians 5:22-23)

Here is the good news! If you are a follower of Jesus then this is true for you. You have been given a new heart because of Jesus.

**Question:** What are some of the impure/unclean/evil things that are producing bad fruit in our lives? Confess with one another, recognize that Jesus has paid for and forgiven that sin, and ask the Spirit to cleanse your heart.

**Question:** How have you seen God produce good fruit in your life? Name some evidences of his cleansing in your life and thank God for his Spirit's work!

Let's sum up what we have learned based off our discussion on the above three verses:

- Those with pure hearts are able to what?
- What is one sign of having a pure (good) heart?
- Do we have pure hearts?
- How do we get pure hearts?
- What are we able to do when we have new, pure hearts?

\*Pure comes from the Greek word *katharos*, which means to be cleansed, pure, or clear (not mixed)

## NEW CHALLENGE

This week we are going to practice the tool of interpretation. In order to do this, take one of your favorite or most intriguing observations from Acts 1:8, and work on answering that question. This could mean that you look up who wrote the book of Acts, what kind of book it is, who was it written to, etc.

For example: Observation: who is *you* in this passage? Interpretation: seek to answer that question by looking at the surrounding verses or chapters.