

Beatitude 6 – Pure in Heart

Freddy and Oslo were much better friends after Freddy lost his crown. They began to play more together, and not only that, they also started to work together. Oslo had always made it a habit to look out for the needs of others. Freddy was now helping Oslo.

One thing Oslo did on a regular basis was visit Andy, the old and wise otter, to help him out. Andy wasn't able to do a lot of chores around his house because his arms and legs didn't work as well as they did when he was young. This week's job for the two friends was to help Andy clean all the windows and mirrors in his house. They would start with the inside mirrors and finish up with washing all the windows outside. Andy's house didn't have many windows but the windows he did have were very important. They were the only source of light for his house. When they got too dirty it was difficult to even walk around in his house without bumping into things and knocking things over.

Andy helped the best he could, but the two young boys were eager to do most of the work for Andy. Some of the windows were harder to clean because large drips of sticky sap had fallen from the pine trees that grew above Andy's house. They had to scrub extra hard to get those windows clean. It was hard work but they were glad to be able to help Andy.

As the windows became cleaner the amount of light into Andy's small house greatly increased. Andy's study was then brightest room in the house. It was on the side of the house where the sun shone the most of the day and now it would be much easier for Andy to read with all the bright sunlight shining into his room. Andy thanked the boys for their help and they were on their way.

That night Freddy reported the day's events to his father and told him about how they had helped Andy. Freddy's papa had noticed the change in his son and thanked him for being kind to Andy. His dad also used this as an opportunity to teach his son something from the Bible. This is the lesson he taught him:

Freddy, do you know what means to be a disciple? A disciple is someone who learns to think and act according to the instructions of his teacher. He becomes like his teacher. In some ways, Freddy, you are becoming my disciple as you listen and do the things I teach. One day when Yeshua taught His disciples He talked about people who are pure in heart. He said that they would see God. Do you know what that means... to be pure in heart? It wasn't the first time His disciples had heard that phrase. They also knew a song that asked the question, "Who can ascend the hill of the Lord and who can dwell in His holy place?" The song's answer was, "those who had clean hands and a pure heart". You've been told to wash your hands before you eat many times. But how do you get a clean heart? I could use a lot of big fancy adult words to answer that question but I'm not sure you'd understand them all. For today let me help you understand by comparing it to how you helped Andy today. Being faithful to God is like having clean windows in your heart. It lets you see things bright and clear. The dirt you cleaned off the windows can be like those things in your life that are wrong and bad. If you are listening to God and learning His ways you will be able to see Him for who He truly is. As you learn to trust in His promises and learn from Him you will find He does a pretty good job of cleaning out your life. If your life is stained and dirty you won't be able to see very well. How will you get a clean heart?

Now children ask this question to your parents and have them help you understand the lessons of this beatitude. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Parents help your children learn the rest of this story. Continue to look at their lives and help equip them to live lives of faithfulness. Once again, if you have a hard time teaching your children ask for help. Seek wise counsel and learn to diligently teach your children. If you are having success, share that success with others and as a community let's continue to spur one another on to instruct our children with diligence.

For Further Study: together as families read and consider these topics for discussion:

- 1) Psa 24:1-6 What kind of generation will your children be? Blessing, Seeking, Righteousness are all themes within these verses.
- 2) James 4:1-8 Discuss double-mindedness and how James relates this to clean hands and pure hearts -- how setting our minds and hearts on wrong things is like warfare.