



Who's blessed?! Part Three: Matthew 5.8-12

1. Well, nobody's a pure person. Nobody. Unfortunately. But it's a yearning. Chris Martin, Coldplay. How do you think our popular culture responds to the idea of purity?

2. Purity of heart is to will one thing. Soren Kirkegaard. If this quote describes purity, and the heart signifies the essence of a person, not just their emotions, what encouragement or challenge is there to be found in the beatitude?

3. How do you respond to the idea of peacemaking? What is it, and in what sense do you believe God calls us to be peacemakers? See James 5.19-20 and discuss both how this can be implemented, and how it can go wrong.

4. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness. What form does persecution take in our society? The episode indicates that this beatitude can be misunderstood. How so? Discuss.

5. They seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God. What's your response to a passage such as this one? As you consider your own life, are you ready to suffer for the gospel? If not, what can you do to prepare?