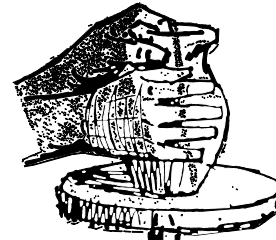


His Workmanship at Westside

*"For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

Beatitudes Revisited: Mercy, Purity in Heart *by Paula Hendricks*

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy," Mt 5:7. Last week we discussed some aspects of mercy. It is showing compassion by forgiving and by helping, serving, and walking alongside anyone who needs help, whether physical, social, or spiritual. We also discussed how to develop merciful action:

1. Reflect on the mercy you've been shown. If you're not experiencing God's grace and mercy, carefully read and think about Ephesians 2:1-10: *"You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heav-*

enly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

2. Ask God to open your eyes to the needs around you. Make a list. Then step into another person's shoes, feel his uncertainty, experience his problems.

3. Show mercy to the hurting. Mercy doesn't run past prayer, but it also doesn't stop at prayer. Mercy rolls up its sleeves and gets down to business. And the merciful receive more mercy from God: *"Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble," Ps 41:1; cf. Eph 4:32; Col 3:13. Dorothy Patterson explains it this way, "This beatitude carries a double blessing because both the giver and the receiver reap a reward... God's mercy is so sweet that He always*

notes and rewards the kindness and mercy we extend to others. You never lose with God. The reward is not only in this life but also in the life to come."

The mercy we receive is contingent on our showing mercy: *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses," Mt 6:14-15; cf. Mt 18:32-35; Mk 11:25-26.*

Have you ever shown someone mercy? If not, are you sure you've received God's mercy? Will you humble yourself and ask Him to create mercy in your heart now? He is eager to give it to you.

When You Want a Clear Complexion and Clean Clothes More Than a Pure Heart

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," Mt 5:8; cf. Ps 24:3-4. Pure. Clean. Clear. We want to breathe the pure air, drink clean water, have clear skin. Pure means it has no other characteristics: pure soap is all soap, with no impurities or contaminants; a clear complexion

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"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me."

—Psalm 51:10-11

has no blemishes; pure evil is completely evil; pure joy is total delight. Jesus said, *"The lamp of the body is your eye; when your eye is single (when you are single-minded instead of double-minded), then your whole body is completely light; but when it is evil your whole body is full of (complete) darkness. Look carefully! Perhaps that very light of yours is darkness. If, however, your whole body is full of light, without having any part dark, it will be wholly radiant with light, as when the lamp illumines you with its bright rays,"* Lk 11:34-36. Double-dealing is dishonesty; double-minded is doubting, not steadfast, weak, and unstable, see Jas 1:6-8; 4:8; Ps 12:2; 119:113; Mt 6:22-24; but whole-heartedness is what the Lord desires—whole-hearted love, obedience, service, passion, Ps 119:2, 10, 34, 58, 69, 145; Mt 22:37; Lk 10:27; Mk 12:28-34; Deut 6:5; 30:6; 10:12; 11:13.

We go to school or work in clean cars with clean hair and clean clothes (unless we sleep in too late—then, we just throw a hat over our dirty hair). Most people don't want to look and smell filthy on the outside. But inside—that's another story altogether!

How Bad Is It, Really? Our culture laughs at purity and celebrates filth. We're not much different. Deep down, we hate purity. We think God is demanding the impossible when He tells us to be holy as He is holy, 1 Pet 1:16, from Lev 11:44; 19:2; 20:7. Ironic, isn't it? In every other area of life (except our hearts), we want to be clean.



Why is that? It's because we desire sin. Check out Genesis 3. We incline towards a heart that is filthy. And when scripture says filthy, it means really filthy. It's worse than you think. In Genesis 6:5, God saw that *"every intention of the thoughts of [men's] hearts was only evil continually."* Yikes! *"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?"* Jer 17:9; cf. Job 4:17. So how do we get the clean, pure heart that Jesus wants us to have?

How to Get a New Heart. You can't. You know how it is. One more washing won't touch the stains on the white shirt; you just need to get a brand-new white shirt. That's how it is with our hearts. We need completely new hearts. Thankfully, God is in the business of doing heart transplants—and Jesus paid our bill! Check out His promise: *"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 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,"* Ezek 36:25-27; cf. Ezek 11:19-20; 18:31; Jer 24:7; 31:33; 32:39; 33:8. To get this new heart, though, you have to want it. You first have to agree with God that you have a filthy, dirty heart, cf. Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Job 15:14-16; 25:4-6; Pr 30:12; Is 64:6; and then you ask Him to wash you, Ps 51:2, 7, 9-11; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Eph 5:25-26; Tit 3:5; Rev 1:5; 7:14. He purifies our hearts by faith, Ax 15:9, and by baptism, Ax 22:16. *"There is also an anti-*

type which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him," 1 Pet 3:21-22.

How to Keep a New Heart Clean.

Getting a new, washed heart is just the beginning. Keeping it clean the rest of your life is a hard task.

I bought a pair of turquoise Adidas tennis shoes recently. They came with bright white soles, and I've already had to clean them several times. New shoes just don't stay clean walking through life. New hearts don't either. So how can you cleanse your heart? You need regularly to let the light of God's Word show you where you're dirty, Jn 17:17. Then, when you confess your filth (your sins, your blemishes), God promises to wash it away, 1 Jn 1:9.

How It's All Possible. But why should you be concerned over inner purity when you've got projects and a summer trip and a job to think about? Because an unclean heart keeps you away from God. Because *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God,"* Mt 5:8. Because Christ shed His blood to wash you clean.

Do you remember how in the Old Testament our holy, pure, clean, unapproachable God dwelt in the special section of the tabernacle called the "Holy of Holies"? Only the high priest could slip through the thick curtain into the Holy of Holies—and only once a year, and only if he brought a blood sacrifice with him. If he didn't, God would kill him. He *continued on p. 3*



Psalm 133:1



Fill your can-teen in 2013

“May you be filled with all the fullness of God.”
—Ephesians 3:19

Beatitude: Pure heart, from p. 2 had to offer a blood sacrifice to clean his own filthy heart. Now, though, this holy, pure, clean, unapproachable God can be seen and known by you! How? The thick, heavy curtain separating you from Him has been torn. We're told in Hebrews that when the temple curtain was torn just after Jesus's death, it represented His body being torn for you. Christ's blood was then put on the mercy seat so that God might welcome you into His Holy of Holies. *“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water,”* Heb 10:19-22.

If you can't "see" God, is it because you've never had a heart transplant? Is it because you haven't entered His Presence, cf. Ps 16:11? Are you ready to ask Him to give you a new heart? If you have been cleansed by Christ's blood, are you daily washing in the water of His Word?

Pure. Clean. Clear. Outside. Inside. It's possible, through Christ's blood. It's what God desires for you. It's what you were made for.

Discipleship Here At Home

Gosnell Verdict, from p. 4 again make it clear that Americans overwhelmingly oppose late-term abortions. The law should follow this instinctive resistance to such a dehumanizing and degrading practice. As the country's attention is turned to this issue, we hope to see Congress address the multi-state breakdown of oversight in the abortion industry as well as the barbarism of abortions performed on children capable of feeling pain and surviving outside the womb.”

The SBA List has compiled an initial fact sheet on abortion industry negligence and brutality occurring nationwide; see www.sba-list.org/negligence for a list of states (Del, MD, IL, TX, MI, NC, OH, PA, VA, LA, AZ, NJ, FL) and dates from 2003.

The Gosnell case exposes what happens behind closed doors in the abortion Industry, and it certainly isn't—cannot be—the end of investigations into abortion abuse. In recent days, two U.S. House committees have launched investigations into how diligently states are enforcing pro-life laws and regulating abortion sellers. State attorneys general and health department officials have been asked to provide detailed information as to how they are tracking and monitoring this industry.

In the end, it's not enough to regulate abortion; it must be abolished. We pray that the tragedy of the Gosnell story will move us closer to a day when our nation cherishes and protects life, especially those tiny members of the human race still in their mothers' wombs.

Memory Verse: “I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation. I have not concealed Your loving-kindness and Your truth from the great assembly.”—Psalm 40:10

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here & away

Madge Wallace—lung cancer; at home with hospice; chest tube inserted that drains fluid, air in chest cavity

Mark Campbell—in rehab after head injury; recovering at home

Matt Reames—home, no abnormal pressure on brain; further tests required

Judy Strand's son Joe Huff—recurrence of neurological symptoms, black-outs, from brain injury he suffered in a 2007 car accident

Alexander Gintchin's classmate, Jack Miller—2 brain tumors; age 6

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr;

Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma

Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis

Nell Free—new pacemaker; heart, pain

Rod Green—thyroid trouble

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help around his house

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes;

Virginia, now legally blind from rapid macular degeneration; high BP

Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes

Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; pain

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung

Job concerns Andrew Tope and

Frank Savarese are seeking jobs. **The Menards' son** is out of work.

Traveling Mina Gonzalez is visiting at Northgate today and will travel to NM Wed. **Pat Campbell** is in AR caring for her parents until the end of May.

REJOICE Congratulate **Lisa Ward**, who graduates today from Metro State with a BA in behavioral science, sociology, psychology, and **Lindsey Bennett** who graduates from high school Thursday.

Expecting Marie Carlson—July 1 girl

Amy Vander Kooi—August, boy



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Verdict Brings Scrutiny of Abortion Industry

New Gallup Survey Details Views on Abortion in Light of Gosnell

The verdict in the trial of Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell, guilty on three counts of killing babies born alive during abortions and one count of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a woman who died from complications as a result of an abortion, brings a level of justice in what local prosecutors called the Philadelphia "house of horrors." It's clear from the Grand Jury report that, during Gosnell's 30+ year career, he likely murdered hundreds, if not thousands, of babies. Yet there is no joy in the fact that state authorities failed to inspect the facility for almost 20 years, allowing the victimization of women through unsanitary conditions and murder of babies born alive because of "choice."

The Gosnell trial received minimal media coverage, and that may be why a recent Gallup poll found that only 1/4 of Americans said they have followed the case very closely or somewhat closely.

Poll: Americans Consistently and Overwhelmingly Opposed to Late-Term Abortion. The new polling information last week detailed Americans' views on abortion in light of the Gosnell case. Key findings include:

- 58 percent of Americans believe abortion should be illegal in all or most cases.
- 59 percent of Independents and 43 percent of Democrats believe abortion should be illegal in all or most circumstances.
- Americans ages 18-34 are more likely than any other age group to say abortion should be illegal under all circumstances.

Gallup notes that "One of the clearest messages from polling trends is that Americans oppose late-term abortion," noting that a January 2013 poll shows "80 percent of Americans reject abortion in the third trimester, and 64 percent in the second trimester."

Some 46 percent of those following the case say the media has not devoted enough coverage to it.

"Gallup asks whether views would shift if more Americans were aware of the Gosnell trial," said Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of Susan B. Anthony (SBA) List. "The answer is unequivocally yes. There has been no shortage of recent evidence exposing the abortion industry for negligence and brutality. Kermit Gosnell is only a pull on the thread of the sweater... These numbers once

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Westside church of Christ

meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 972-0087

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987

DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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This morning: "*Encouragement,*"
by Jim Reingrover

This afternoon:

A Walk in Their Sandals Series
"*Reuben,*" by Larry Campbell

Salida evangelism: Kory Tope is preaching in Salida, CO, this morning.