

I will be humble for I know my weakness!

Revelation 7:2-4,9-14

Psalm 24

1John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12a

John describes his vision of four angels who were given the power to bring destruction upon the earth after the faithful servants of God are given a mark on their foreheads. He also saw great multitudes before God's throne giving ceaseless praise while all the angels stood around the throne. Those wearing white robes are the ones who survived the time of great distress having their robes washed in the Blood of the Lamb.

The psalmist answers the question of who can ascend the mountain of the Lord or stand in his holy place: those whose hands are sinless, whose hearts are clean, who desire not what is vain. They shall receive a blessing and reward from the Lord.

John emphasizes the love the Father has for us by bringing us into his family as children. This is only the first step because it has not been revealed what we will become. He calls upon the faithful to make themselves pure in order that this hope materializes.

Jesus was followed by a great crowd and he began to teach them by saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, who are meek, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the clean of heart, the peacemakers, the innocent ones who are persecuted. These are the ones whose reward in heaven will be great.

The Father loves us and sent
His Son whose guidance
Touches us through the Holy Spirit.

Are You Pure of Heart?

The persons who strive toward the qualities mentioned in the Gospel are those who can be called, "the salt of the earth." Salt is a preservative used to prevent decay from setting in. These are the ones who keep our culture from going into chaos. They hold communities and parishes together and give example of what it means to work for the common good. These people often get attention and what gets attention gets you.

Are you one that housecleans your heart of all wrongdoings? In Jesus' time men usually washed their selves ceremoniously before going to the temple. Jesus taught that they need to look inward and cast out all ill will, spite, pride, and lust from their hearts. This is what the saints did and they experienced the vision of God leading to a real sense of the nearness and reality of the unseen world giving them a sense of peace and security.

Are You A Peacemaker?

Do you always make peace between yourself and others? Do you tell others of pleasant things said about them and not the ugly gossip you might have heard? If someone followed you around all the day would they find a trail of good will and peace behind you? If you have a conflict is it because you hold fast to the moral betterment of those concerned praying that it will bring an honorable peace to the situation? Jesus tells us to be confident peacemakers in difficult times.

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