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Children of God

Matthew 5:8-11



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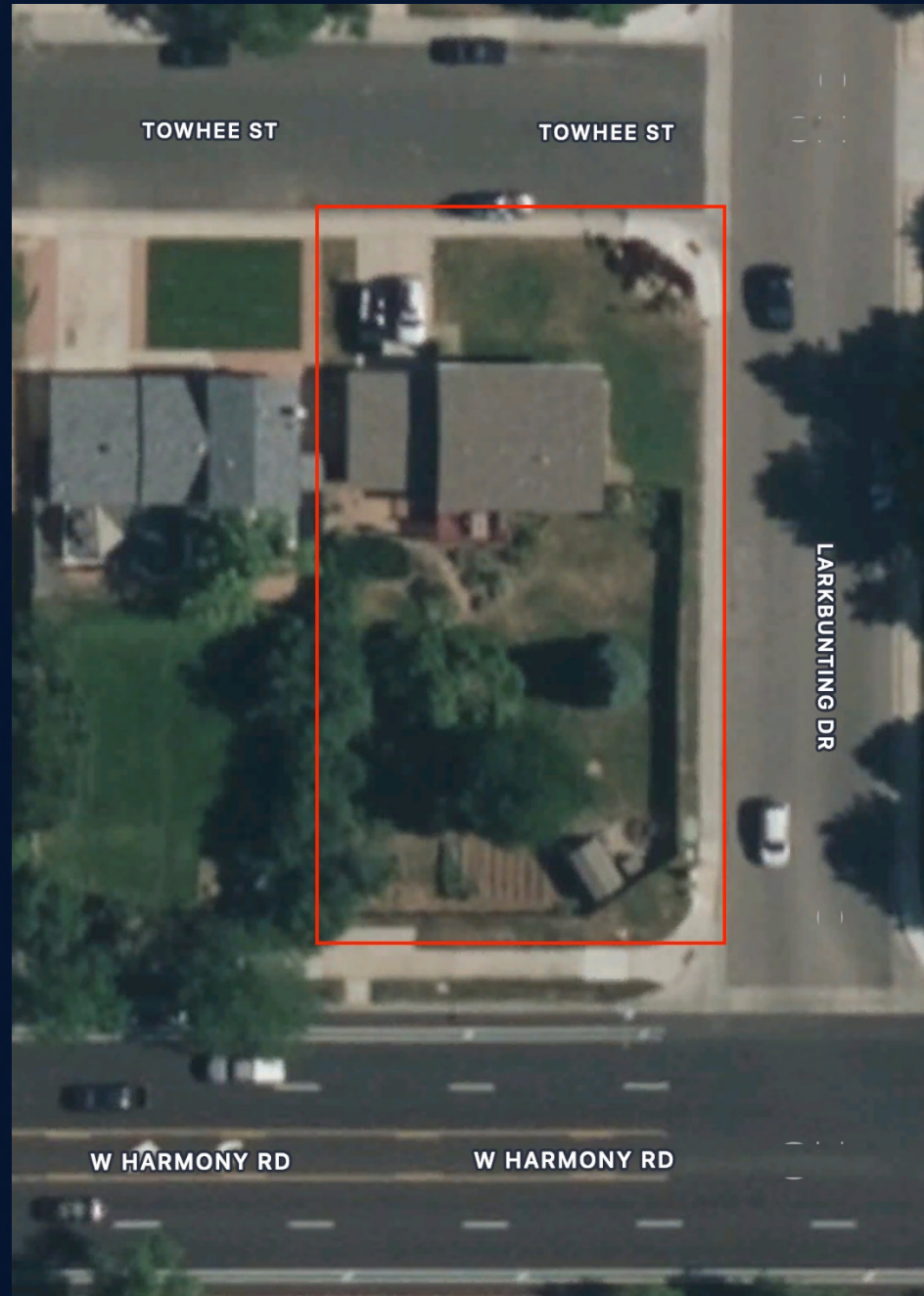
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Matthew 5:8 - 11

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.



Pure in Heart

- Primary aim is to seek & know God



1 Timothy 1:3-7

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. **The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.** Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.



Pure in Heart

- Primary aim is to seek & know God
- Consistent in character
 - Cognitive Dissonance: Knowing what is right but preferring something different
 - Hypocrisy: Demanding adherence to a standard that we don't keep
 - Idolatry is often the root of inconsistent character.



Pure in Heart

- Primary aim is to seek & know God
- Consistent in character
 - Cognitive Dissonance: Knowing what is right but preferring something different
 - Hypocrisy: Demanding adherence to a standard that we don't keep
 - Idolatry is often the root of inconsistent character.
- Forthright and transparent with others



Psalm 24:3-6

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**

He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**



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Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.



What did he say?



I think it was 'Blessed are the cheesemakers.'

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Blessed are the Peacemakers

- Peacemakers ≠ Peacekeepers
- God, through Jesus, is the ultimate peacemaker.



God is the Ultimate Peacemaker

Colossians 1:19-20: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



Blessed are the Peacemakers

- Peacemakers ≠ Peacekeepers
- God, through Jesus, is the ultimate peacemaker.
- Peacemaking isn't "truth bombing" or mocking people into conformity.



Matthew 5:10-11

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



Persecuted for Righteousness

- The more we reflect God in our lives, the odder we'll seem to this world.



Persecuted for Righteousness

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



Persecuted for Righteousness

- As we reflect God more, the odder we'll seem to this world.
- As we work to bring peace and reconciliation, the more we'll confront the functional “gods” in peoples' lives.



Persecuted for Righteousness

Acts 7:54-57

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.



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Persecuted for Righteousness

Hebrews 11:32-38a

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection.



Persecuted for Righteousness

Hebrews 11:32-38a (cont.)

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy...



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Kids' Question

Whom does Jesus call sons of God?



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