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**Date: September 17, 2017**

**Sermon Title: God Wants You to See Him**

**Speaker: Richard Smith**

**Scripture text(s): Matthew 5:8**

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- 1) What does it mean to be pure in heart?
  - 2) In what ways are you pursuing purity in your life right now? How can you make it a part of your daily walk with the Lord?
  - 3) Richard used the comparison of the new linen having only been used to wrap Jesus' body to our lives having a singular devotion to Christ. What does your level of devotion look like?
  - 4) How are your activities an expression of your devotion to Christ? In what areas of your life do you have competing loyalties?
  - 5) The definition of the word duplicity is deceitfulness; double-dealing--with synonyms being: underhandedness, dishonesty, fraud, trickery, treachery. Apply this definition and synonyms to a believer's life who isn't singular in his/her devotion to Christ. Discuss the implications for this lifestyle not only in his/her life but also in the lives of those around them.
  - 6) Richard asked us the question "What does it mean to see God?" He gave us four ways we can see God: a) to be accepted in His presence-Ps 24:3-4; b) to experience His power and presence uniquely-Luke 10: 23-24; c) to be awed by His majesty-Job 42:5; d) to be comforted by His presence-Ps 27:7-9. How do these bring encouragement to your heart and hope for your future? Discuss the hope we have even if we have lived a duplicitous life.
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### **Group Prayer Time:**

Have 1 – 2 people in your group pray through each part of the A.C.T.S. prayer acronym.

1. **Adoration** – How is God's character reflected in this week's passage? Let that revelation lead you to worship and adore God.
2. **Confess** – The Word of God exposes and uncovers sin. Respond to that conviction by agreeing with what God has said about your sin.
3. **Thanksgiving** – Where do you see God working? Thank God for his faithfulness in your life and the lives of others.

4. **Supplication** – God’s Word helps us understand his purposes and plans. Ask God to give you the desires of his heart as you pray for your needs and the needs of others.

**Pray for Missions:**

This week in your group prayer time, have someone pray for this missions effort. Different missions will be highlighted every week.

**Local Missions** – Jump Start is a faith based prison rehabilitation ministry. Many ex-offenders are maladjusted to society, having to deal with the stigma that comes with being an ex-offender, in addition to their own personal struggles and habits that led to criminal behavior in the first place. Crime is ultimately an action of the heart. When offenders are offered programs that combine Christian teaching, discipleship, mentoring, job training, transitional housing and other support services, the recidivism rate drops dramatically. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.jumpstartvision.org>.