**HOLY SAVIOUR, BITTERNE BIBLE STUDY – WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 14th (Beatitudes 6)**

*We continue to look at what the Beatitudes teach us about Christian character, something which the current crisis may well be helping to shape!* ***Jot down your thoughts about the questions in the spaces provided*** *–* ***and it would be really good to share them with others.*** *Phone, Skype, email some members of your homegroup or a friend and/or email me your thoughts (* brianparfitt@btinternet.com *).* ***Brian Parfitt***

What are you missing about meeting with others in worship? What part has worship usually played in your relationship with God? In what ways are you experiencing God’s presence with you now?

**This week’s Beatitude is about knowing God, ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.’ (Matthew 5.8) Dick France explains it like this, ‘*Pure in heart* should not be restricted to moral, still less sexual, purity. It denotes one who loves God with all his heart, with an undivided loyalty, and whose inward nature corresponds with his outward profession.’ Such people can ‘see God’ and know him. There is a very real sense in which only those who are holy can come to a holy God, and sadly all human beings fall short of that. The good news is that through Christ sin can be forgiven and characters transformed. So we can know God now, even if in a limited way. One day, when Christ returns, we will be completely transformed, our sin done away and we will know God perfectly.**

**To explore what this Beatitude means we are going to look at some passages from the Old and New Testament. *(If it’s helpful you might look at them over a few days, one at a time, rather than all at once.)***

Jesus’ words reflect those of Psalm 24, a Psalm probably sung in a procession to worship. **Read Psalm 24.3-6.** What sort of person can come to worship? Why do you think that is? What is the promise to those who seek God?

**Read Matthew 23.25-28.** What sort of purity was valued by the religious leaders of Jesus’ day? What sort of purity is Jesus looking for? What challenges does this present to us?

John has some lessons for us in his first letter. **Read 1st Letter of John 1.1-2.6.**

In **1.1-4** what does John say about how about he and his fellow disciples had touched and seen God made man? How does responding to that message about Jesus bring us into fellowship with God and other Christians?

What can we discover from **1.5-2.2** about

 - how sin affects our relationship with God?

 - the reality of sin in our lives?

 - how sin can be dealt with?

How has God’s forgiveness made a difference to your life and your relationship to God?

What can we learn from **2.3-6** about how knowing God should be shown in the lives we lead?

**Read a little further in John’s letter -1 John 3.1-3.** How do these verses describe the impact of finally seeing Jesus face to face? How should that motivate us in our lives now?

Reflect on what you have discovered from ***each of the passages*** we have looked at. How have they helped you understand **‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.’?** How have they encouraged you in knowing God? How have they challenged you about the integrity we should show in the way we live our lives?