



#Blessed?



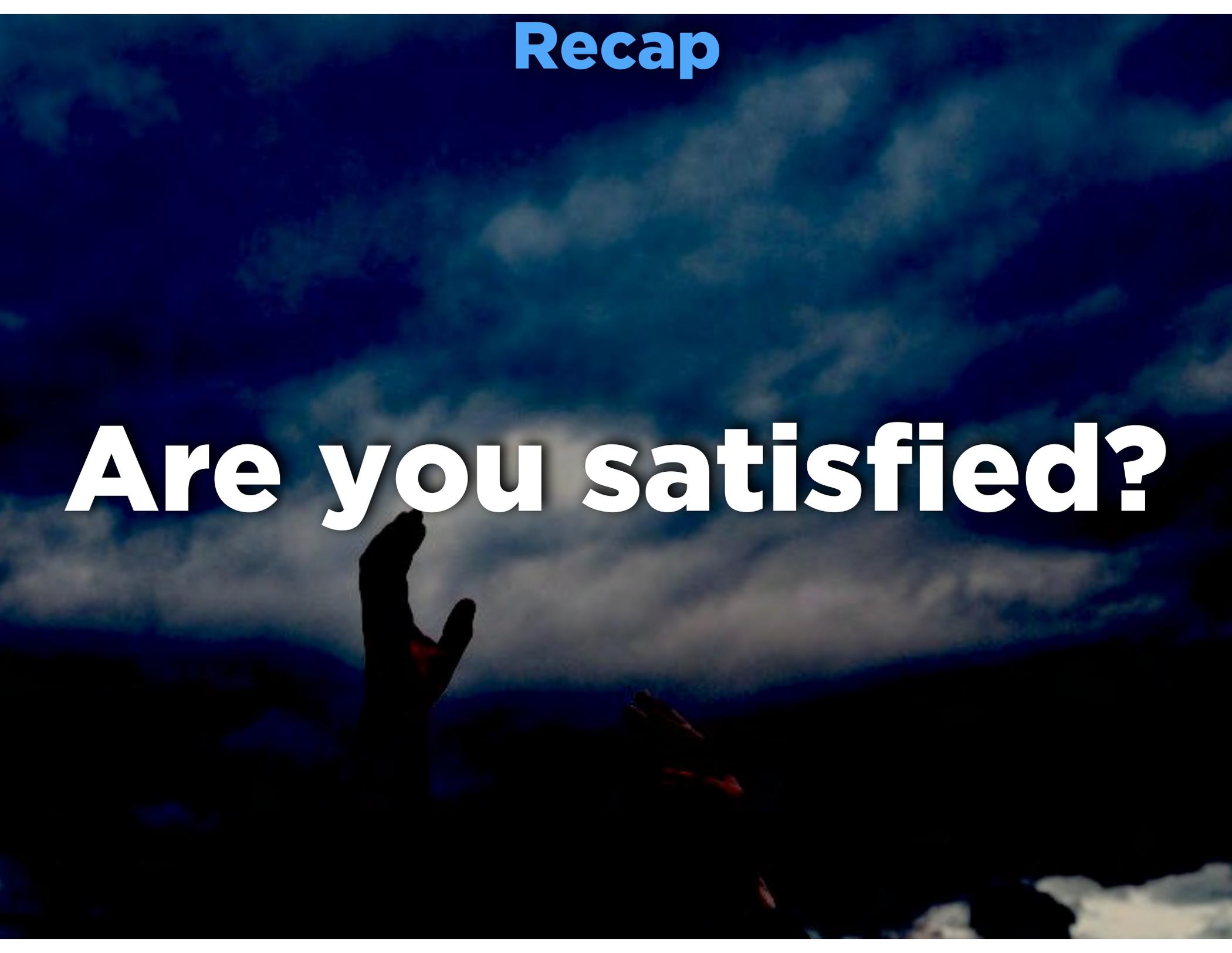
The Process of Purity

Recap

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6

Recap

Are you satisfied?

A hand is silhouetted against a dark blue sky with scattered white clouds. The hand is reaching upwards, with the index finger pointing towards the word 'satisfied' in the large white text. The overall mood is contemplative and aspirational.

Recap

“For those who live in a world in which they can turn on the tap whenever they want water and are always able to secure some sort of food to eat, **the experience of hunger and thirst is foreign. Not so in the ancient world, where so many lived constantly on the edge of starvation and often traveled through desert regions without water.”**

Robert Mounce

Recap

Righteousness

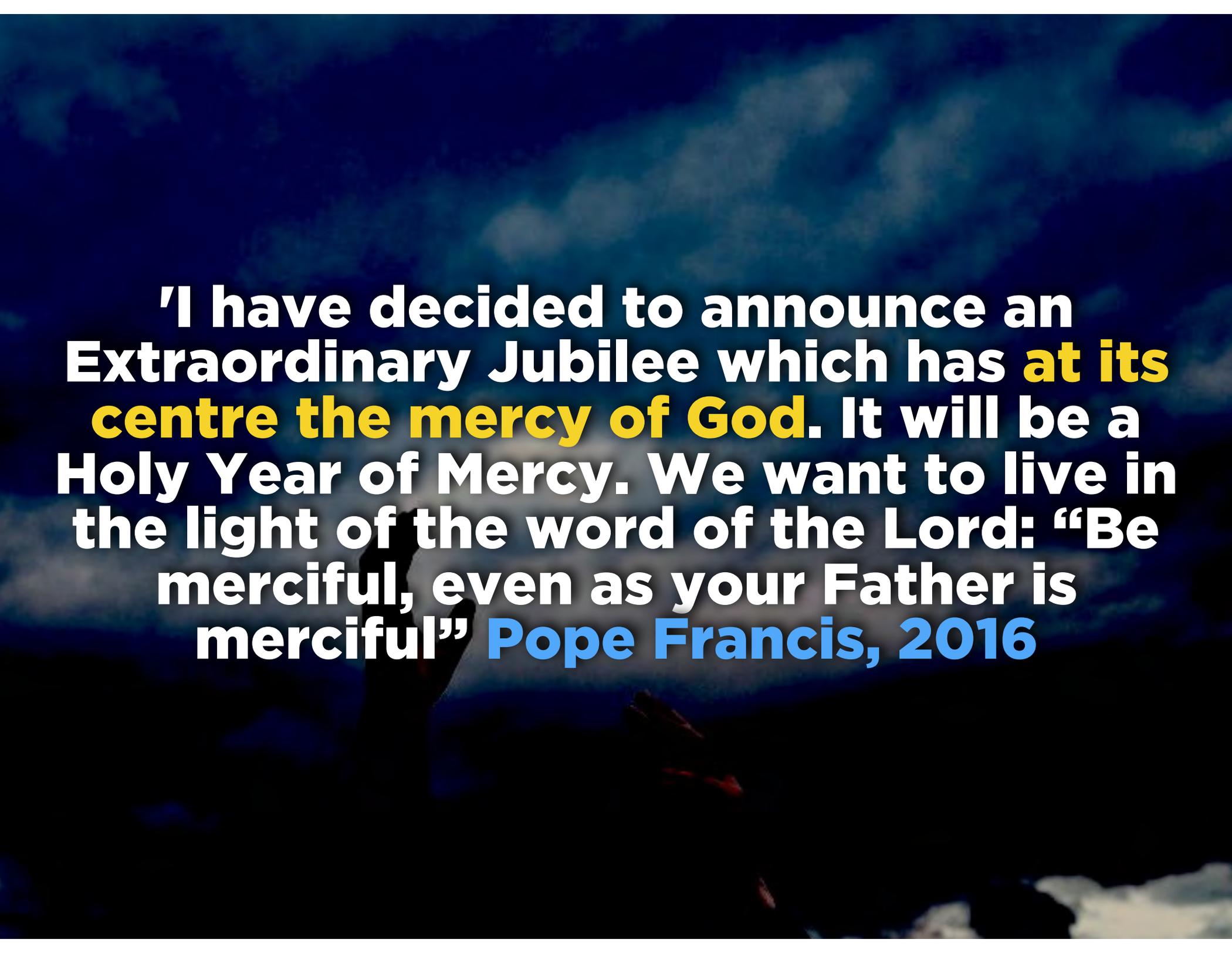
God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **in him** we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

But seek first his kingdom and **his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33**

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, **who has become for us** wisdom from God—that is, **our righteousness**, holiness and redemption. **1 Corinthians 1:30**

Recap

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the **lust of the flesh (pleasure), the **lust of the eyes (desires)**, and the **pride of life (self sufficiency)**—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, **but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17****

The background of the image is a dark blue, cloudy sky. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a silhouette of a hand with the index finger pointing upwards. The text is overlaid on this background.

'I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has **at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" **Pope Francis, 2016****

A dark blue sky with white clouds. In the lower-left foreground, there is a silhouette of a hand reaching upwards. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

**Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Matthew 5:7-8**

Mercy

One thing that is common to the poor in spirit, the meek, and those who hunger for righteousness is that their life is not self sufficient but looks outward for help. They understand mercy for they know their own inadequacies, dependence, weaknesses and incompleteness. And, when they receive gracious and merciful bounty from the King, they in turn know to show mercy to others.

Allan Ross

Mercy

Mercy is a primary characteristic of God. It is seen as integral to who He is and how He deals with humanity

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.” And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. Exodus 33:18-19

David said to God, “I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands.” 2 Samuel 24:14

Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Mercy

“The best definition of the two that I have ever encountered is this: ‘Grace is especially associated with men in their **sins**; mercy is especially associated with men in their **misery**.’

In other words, while grace looks down upon sin as a whole, mercy looks especially upon the miserable consequences of sin. **So that mercy really means a sense of pity plus a desire to relieve the suffering.**”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Pure in Heart

Pure translates katharos, a form of the word from which we get catharsis. The basic meaning is to make pure by cleansing from dirt, filth, and contamination. Catharsis is a term used in psychology and counselling for a cleansing of the mind or emotions.

Pure is not an inert state but instead a process of purification

Pure in Heart

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already **committed adultery with her in his heart.** **Matthew 5:28**

But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. **Matthew 15:18-19**

For where your treasure is, **there your heart will be also.** **Luke 12:34**

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. **For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.** **Luke 6:45**

Pure in Heart

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. **After he had provided purification for sins,** he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. **Hebrews 1:1-3**

Pure in Heart

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:7-10

See God

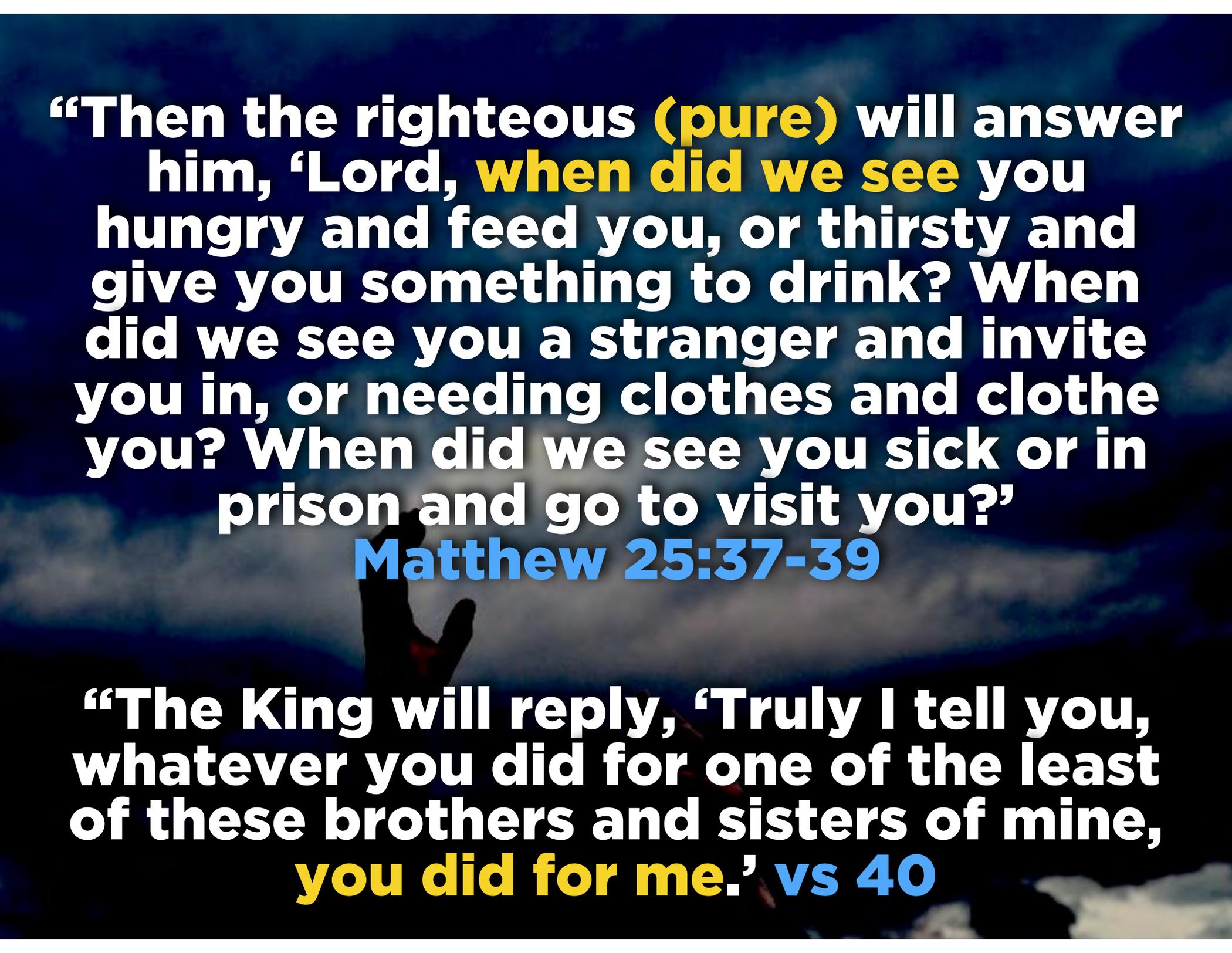
In every sphere of life we see what we want to see. So, says Jesus, it is only the pure in heart who shall see God

“Seeking the face of God in everything, everyone, all the time, and his hand in every happening; **This is what it means to be contemplative in the heart of the world.** Seeing and adoring the presence of Jesus, especially in the lowly appearance of bread, and in the distressing disguise of the poor.”

Mother Teresa

The background of the image is a dark, deep blue sky filled with soft, white, and light blue clouds. In the lower portion of the frame, the silhouettes of several hands are visible, reaching upwards towards the center. The hands are dark against the lighter sky, creating a sense of reaching or prayer. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

**Mercy is the action,
Purity is the reaction**

A hand is visible in the lower-left quadrant, reaching upwards with fingers slightly spread. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a blue and grey color palette. The text is overlaid on this background.

“Then the righteous (pure) will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

Matthew 25:37-39

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ vs 40