



Where does Happiness Come From?

Pastor Steve
April 8, 2018

Jesus calls us to a life that is built upon his person and his values. He enables me by his Spirit to internalize those values—and to live them out. Happiness comes from an integrated core—when my INNER SELF and my OUTER SELF are in sync.

1. Happy are the POOR IN SPIRIT for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Not shyness, nervousness or cowardice / not a REPRESSSION of my personality
 - A character quality of SELF-ACKNOWLEDGED weakness / Jesus: “Apart from me you can do nothing.”
 - The essential STARTING point for a disciple
2. Happy are those who MOURN, for they will be comforted.
 - Mourn over SIN, both mine and others
 - Mourn over INJUSTICE in society
 - Mourn over INDIFFERENCE to the gospel
3. Happy are the MEEK, for they will inherit the earth.
 - NOT always AIMING TO PLEASE / not “soft, fat and undisciplined”
 - Not the absence of ASSERTIVENESS, but the absence of SELF-ASSERTION
 - Not using strength for self, but using it on behalf of others / strength under CONTROL
4. Happy are those who HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, for they will be filled.
 - Has to do with our CORE motivation
 - The world “hungers and thirsts” for happiness
 - We long for PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNES/ ALIEN RIGHTEOUSNESS/ SOCIAL RIGHTEOUSNESS/ FUTURE RIGHTEOUSNESS

5. Blessed are the MERCIFUL for they will be shown mercy.
 - Responding to others with EMPATHY, gentleness, patience and compassion
 - Jesus: “A WEIGHTIER MATTER OF THE LAW”
6. Blessed are the PURE IN HEART, for they will see God.
 - The absence of DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS or duplicity / absence of hypocrisy
 - The opposite of external piety / not APPEARANCE, but ESSENCE
7. Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS, for they will be called children of God.
 - Not “peace at any price” / not the AVOIDANCE of conflict / not appeasement
 - Not TRIANGULATING
 - The ACTIVE work of bringing two conflicted parties together and leading them to reconciliation.

Applications:

- UP: How does Jesus’ way differ from that of the society we live in? What especially stands out to you?
- IN: Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you fall short of Jesus’ way. Ask him to bring genuine sorrow over your shortcomings.
- OUT: How can you be a peacemaker this week to people in your sphere of influence? How can you show mercy?