

The Blessed Life **Matthew 5:1-16**

Humans are searching for happiness

Film came out a few years ago called the Pursuit of Happiness

Harvard published a study recently that concluded that giving is better than receiving and adds happiness to a person. Tested children who gave to a puppet instead of receiving.

We are all chasing happiness. To be blessed

We are all looking for the life of blessing.

Read the text:

Blessed = the privileged recipient of divine favor

According to Kittel - but later was used for the rich who have had all the cares and worries of normal life removed

O the happinesses of

happiness -

I hope that we all wish to love life and see good days

1. The spiritual prerequisites of the blessed life

Is it power - no

Is it pedigree - no

Is it privileges - no

Is it people - no

I remember a story I read about two men who were taken captive by the Americans in World War II. These two young men were captured in Germany among several German soldiers, taken to the United States, and placed in a prison camp. The Americans noticed a difference right away. They didn't look German. They were clearly frightened and confused, mostly keeping to themselves because no one appeared able to communicate with them. The Germans claimed to know nothing about them, and every attempt to interrogate just ended in frustration.

Their captors brought in a language expert. As he began to talk to these two frightened young men, he realized they came from Tibet. He understood their language, and listened to their

story.

These two young Tibetans were weary and living in the same small village they had known all their lives, never seeing anything outside the small country. They wanted to see the rest of the world, so they crossed the border into Russia without any idea that World War II was raging in Europe.

These boys were immediately picked up by the Russian authorities. Not knowing who they were, but seeing they were fighting age, the Russians put them on a train headed west. The train arrived in the outskirts of a large city, and the Tibetan boys were given army uniforms. The Russians sent them to boot camp, then shoved a rifle in their hands. Within a few weeks of leaving their home, they were on the Russian front lines fighting the Germans.

The boys had never seen anything like hand-to-hand combat. They had no idea what the shooting was about. Frightened, they retreated and were captured by the Germans. They found themselves in a German prisoner of war camp as the allies were invading Normandy. Desperate, the Germans gave weapons to every available man, soldiers and prisoners alike. The confused Tibetan boys went out to fight the Americans.

Again, too afraid to do anything, they began to retreat, and the Americans captured them. After weeks in the United States, the whole secret was finally unlocked.

But the Tibetan boys were still confused. After he heard their story, the translator asked if they had any questions. They said, "Yes, we have a question. Why are all these people trying to kill each other?"¹

Humility:

*poor in spirit - opposite of haughty or thick headed and thick hearted

Luke 4:18: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the *blind*, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;"

*mourn - the resulting contrition of the one who has grieved over their own sin and the sin of others

*meek - self controlled

*hunger and thirst for righteousness - known for an appetite but not for power or prominence or fame - but for a right standing before God and fellow man

well beyond the passing fancy of merely pleasing people - this is the one who is determined to be right with God

¹Adrian Rogers, *Finding God's Peace* (Memphis: Love Worth Finding Ministries, 1992), p. 4.

Integrity

*merciful

treatment of others is characterized by mercy

-does not give people what they deserve -

-someone with a compassionate heart

-I spoke with Miley Cyrus' pastor

-merciful to the person who offended you; merciful to the

*pure in heart

someone whose life comes from a heart that is pure - untainted and undefiled by the world

*peacemakers

they bring healing

they bring wholeness

they bring health

*persecuted for righteousness sake

willing to pay a price for the right thing

2. The satisfying possessions of the blessed life

*the Kingdom of heaven

value this kingdom more than any of this earth or this world

the Devil asked Jesus to sell His soul for the Kingdoms of the world- He will ask you the same - but it is Jesus who will die for your soul so that you can have the kingdom that endures

Jesus wants you to want a Kingdom

*comfort from God

mourning can be an occasion for closeness - this closeness comes when the one who mourns is comforted by others

the Bible calls God the God of all comfort - He comforts us in our affliction

*inherit the earth

1 Corinthians 3:21-23: "Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:

²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. ²³ And you *are* Christ's, and Christ *is* God's."

*filled with righteousness
v. 6, v. 10, v. 20

Jesus' plan to possess righteousness

*obtain mercy
objects of God's mercy

Amazing Grace written by a man

The British navy compelled the hymn's composer, John Newton, to serve on a ship in 1744. He escaped, was captured, and publicly flogged. At his own request, the navy assigned him to a slave ship. Ultimately, Newton became master of his ship - again, a slave vessel.

On May 10, 1748, his frail craft plowed through a massive storm. Newton felt sure the ship would sink and cried out to God for mercy. When the rain and wind subsided, Newton returned to his cabin and considered the irony of asking for mercy when he had a hold full of chained human beings, stolen from their homeland and destined, via his ship, for the slave market.

Overwhelmed at his own unworthiness, Newton realized that God had extended to him a grace, an unearned, undeserved favor that could be described only as "amazing."

*will see God

Moses could not see God, God's had him hide his face and only see his hind quarters

everyone acts like they can strut into God's presence

*will be called sons of God

in the royal family - the royal baby is poised to inherit \$1 billion

-leader of the military

-power of enforcement

*will have the kingdom of heaven + and a great reward in heaven

3. The shocking product of the blessed life

you will be misunderstood

you will be attacked

vilified

slandered

ostracized

marginalized

criticized
scandalized

persecution - enemies

Dr. Robert G. Lee, the former pastor of this church, was a great man, but he had enemies. I have heard Dr. Lee say on more than one occasion, "one of these days somebody is going to preach at my funeral. When I'm in that casket, if that preacher has the nerve, the audacity to say, 'Here lies dear old Dr. Lee. He didn't have an enemy.' I pray God, He'll give me the courage to kick the lid off that coffin, rise up and say, 'That's a lie.'" He did not want to be known as a man who had no enemies. All of us who stand for God will have enemies. ²

*you will be tested

*you will be tempted

*You will be tenacious

let your light shine before men

*You will be triumphant

²Adrian Rogers, *Finding God's Peace* (Memphis: Love Worth Finding Ministries, 1992), p. 8.