



# Blessed - Happiness

Matthew 5:3



- And seeing the multitudes He went up into a mountain and when He was seated His disciples came unto Him and He opened His mouth and taught them saying, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- Jesus came to bring people happiness. Jesus came to bring blessings. Jesus came to make life meaningful, and the key to the kind of happiness and the kind of blessedness that is talked about in these beatitudes,
- The word blessed was our theme last week, the key to that kind of blessedness is following a new standard for living. A new kind of life, and that is what Jesus sets up in the Sermon on the Mount



# HAPPINESS



- The promise of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount is if you live by these standards you will know blessedness. And verse 3 to 11 it is blessed and finally as a result of all this blessedness, verse 12 rejoice and be exceeding glad.
- a promise of blessedness, happiness, deep inner satisfaction.
- Not only about behaviour; but attitude. Jesus is saying that the inner part of a person's life is the real key to happiness. It is at the heart of a person



# HAPPINESS



- This is for all believers of all ages because every principle found in the Sermon on the Mount is found somewhere else in the New Testament. This is for us.
- It is the distinctive different lifestyle of a believer. It calls upon us to come to a new standard of living.
- Jesus says - The way you must live if you are to know happiness, if you are to know blessedness. God wants you to be happy. God wants you to be blessed and He gives us here the principles.
- In many ways Christians today have lost their distinctiveness.



# HAPPINESS



- We have been shaped by the world. We have been moulded into the world, the world's music, and its sex morals, its marriages, its divorces,
- its morality, its liberation movements, its materialism, its approach to food, its approach to alcoholic drinks, its approach to dance, its approach to entertainment,
- its approach to sports, its approach to all kinds of things and we get pushed into that and it's very easy for us to lose our distinctiveness.



# HAPPINESS



- Jesus is saying here God wants you to live differently. God doesn't want you to live the way everybody else lives,
- If you will live this "God way" you will be happy, if you live this way you'll be blessed, and you know because the manufacturer knows more about the product than anybody else.
- The maker is God here
- True spirituality then starts on the inside and touches the outside.
- Verse 3. The poor in spirit. The right attitude towards sin, which leads to mourning in verse 4, which leads after you've seen your sinfulness and you've mourned to a meekness, a sense of humility, then to a seeking hunger and thirst for righteousness.



# HAPPINESS



- In today's Christianity today there is so little of the self-emptying concept
- So much of our modern Christianity feeds on pride the pride of humanity.
- Poverty of spirit, is the foundation of all graces.
- You know if you don't have poverty of spirit,
- As long as we are not poor in spirit we can not receive grace.
- You cannot even become a Christian unless you are poor in spirit.



# HAPPINESS



- As you live your Christian life you will never know the other graces of the Christian life as long as you violate poverty of spirit.
- Jesus is saying start here: Happiness is for the humble. Until we are poor in spirit Christ is never precious to us because we cannot see Him we are too fixed on looking at ourselves.
- Till we see our poverty we cannot understand His riches. It is in our deadness we come alive



# HAPPINESS



- Proverbs 16:5 says, "Cursed are the proud. God gives grace to the humble."
- The only way to come to God's kingdom is to confess your own unrighteousness, confess your inability to meet God's standards, confess that you cannot do it.
- The church at Laodicea said, "I am rich and have need of nothing." Jesus said them "And you don't know that you are poor and blind and naked." You think you're rich, you aren't.
- Jesus begins here .....There's no room for pride.



# HAPPINESS



- You cannot come to God unless you realize that you're spiritually bankrupt and that is the way you live your Christian life. You have nothing in the flesh.



# HAPPINESS



- What does this term mean poor in spirit? What kind of poverty is He talking about?
- Some people suggest that it's material poverty.
- Classical Greek uses this word to refer to one who is reduced to beggary, who crouches in a corner of the dark wall to beg for alms.
- The word poor here, is the word used in Luke 16 when it says Lazarus, the beggar. It is not just poor, it is begging poor
- Happy are the destitute, cowering, cringing beggars.
- The world says happy are the rich and the famous and the self-sufficient and the proud.



# HAPPINESS



- It means with reference to the spirit, which is the inner part of man, not the body, which is the outer part, He's begging on the inside, not necessarily on the outside.
- Isaiah 66:2, "But to this man will I look," God says now listen, "To this man will I look, even to Him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at my word." It's the man who shakes on the inside because of this destitution.



# HAPPINESS



- Psalm 34:18 Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 57:15, says
- God identifies with people who beg on the inside, not people who are self-sufficient, not people who can work out their own salvation, not people who believe in their own resources, but those who are destitute beggarly.



# HAPPINESS



- It's the broken and the contrite. Blessed are the beggars says Jesus. Blessed are those whose spirit is destitute. Blessed are the spiritual paupers, the spiritually empty, the spiritually bankrupt who cringe in a corner and cry out to God for mercy.
- They are the happy, because they are the only ones who seek the real resource for happiness. They are the only ones who ever know God. They're the only ones who ever know God's blessedness and theirs is the kingdom.



# HAPPINESS



- James said it in James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of God and He will what, lift you up.
- It's unpopular today because we emphasize celebrities, experts, and superstars, and rich famous Christians. But happiness is for the humble.



# HAPPINESS



- Jacob had to face the poverty of spirit before God could use him.
- Isaiah was used wonderfully by God, but he couldn't be used at all before he was poor in spirit
- Gideon (Judges 6:15), became aware of his inadequacy and he said, "Oh Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel?"



# HAPPINESS



- Moses. God said, "Moses I want you to lead my people." He was so desperately unworthy of the task, he was so horribly fearfully conscious of his inadequacy and his insufficiency that God used him.
- David when he said, "Lord who am I that Thou should come to me?"
- Peter says, "Depart from me oh Lord, for I am a sinful man," that was the beginning for Peter.



# HAPPINESS



- There must be an emptying before there can be a filling.
- The first and great principle of the Sermon on the Mount is:- you cannot do it by yourself. There is a new lifestyle to live, and that new lifestyle promises eternal happiness for you, but you can't do it by yourself,



# HAPPINESS



- What is the result? ----theirs is the kingdom of heaven. An announcement not a wish. Blessed are the poor in spirit for yours in the kingdom of heaven,.
- The kingdom is grace and glory; grace now, glory later



# HAPPINESS



- How do we become poor in spirit?
- Concentrate on God. That's the first thing. Look at God. Read His word. Face His person in His word. Look at Christ constantly. As you gaze at Jesus Christ you lose yourself,
- Not only look at God, not at you, not at anybody else, look at God. Starve the flesh;



# HAPPINESS



- You need to take an inventory. You will be weaned from yourself. Psalm 131:2 "My soul is even as a weaned child."
- You'll be lost in the wonder of Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:18, gazing at His glory.
- If you are poor in spirit you will never complain about your situation. You know why? You don't deserve anything anyway, right?



# HAPPINESS



- You will see only the excellences of others and only your own weakness.
- You will spend much time in prayer. Why? Because a beggar is always begging.



# HAPPINESS



- If you're poor in spirit you'll take Christ on His terms, not yours. The proud sinner will have Christ and His pleasure.
- Finally, when you're poor in spirit you will praise and thank God for His grace. I Timothy 1:14 Those who are poor in spirit are filled with thanks.
- How well do you measure up?