

**Title:** True Happiness

**Passage:** Matthew 5:1-12

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Summary:

Why study the Sermon on the Mount?

- It points us to the Character of God
- It shows us our sinfulness
- It points us to Christ and our need for Him.
- It teaches us how to be truly happy.

Key Truths:

- God allows things to happen that He hates so that He can accomplish things He loves.
- Christian has the serene and untouchable joy which comes from walking forever in the company and in the presence of Jesus Christ

Application:

- To find happiness, we must look to Jesus. Jesus became like us so that we could become like Him.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What are some ways people typically try to find happiness or fulfillment in life?
- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

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**Introduction**

Question: Do you think God is a happy God?

- Or do you think He is frustrated or disappointed?

1 Timothy 6:13-15

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus...to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

- blessed = happy, favored, privileged, joyful.

But doesn't the Bible present God as holy and just?

- Yes. But He is also a happy, joyful God.
- God is joy and created joy. Being a Christian is a joyful experience (not a joy-killer).

How is God joyful even in the midst of suffering?

- God allows things to happen that He hates so that He can accomplish things He loves.

**Passage:**

Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**EXPOSITION**

**Introduction**

Sermon on the Mount

- Famous sermon by Jesus.
- The greatest sermon ever preached because it came directly from Jesus.
  - Originally preached over hours but this is the key summary as written in the gospels.

**Common Misunderstandings**

Social Gospel Interpretation

- take the ethics outlined in the sermon and apply to society.
- Assumes one can do everything outlined on your own power
  - But the truths can only be applied with the Holy Spirit in us.

### Legalistic Interpretation

- view the Sermon on the Mount as a way to be right with God. As a ladder to climb or to-do list to complete.
  - But the truth is that we are to recognize we can do nothing to be right with God. We must be perfect.

### Not applicable to Christians anymore

- read the Sermon on the Mount but discount the value of the Law. Jesus has fulfilled it and I have nothing to do.
  - But with Christ in you, you love the Sermon on the Mount because you love God. You obey out of love.

### Applicable only to a future time.

- View that there will be another time in the future where Christ will come but the ethics in the Sermon on the Mount are only for that time and not now.

## **Why Study the Sermon on the Mount?**

### It points us to the Character of God

- God cherishes humility, loves human life, etc.
- The law points to the character of the law-giver.

### It shows us our sinfulness

- We are sinful in our nature that we are born with.

### It points us to Christ and our need for Him.

- Our need for transformation, re-birth, and regeneration is real.
- But Jesus has lived and died and resurrected on our behalf.

### It teaches us how to be truly happy.

- The God who invented life knows how life is meant to be lived with genuine fulfillment.

### John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

### **Context of Passage**

Chapter 3: beginning of Jesus' public ministry

Mark 1:15 (Jesus' first words)

and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

- Call to repent
  - repent = change of mindset

### Matthew 4:23

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

- Jesus' public ministry calling people to repent for people to turn to the gracious rule of God.

### Matthew 6:8 (theme of Sermon on the Mount)

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

- Christians are called to be different.
  - Unlike the world.
    - Different ethical standards in every area of our lives.

### **Matthew 5:1**

***Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.***

- Jesus is both talking to the disciples while the crowds are listening in as well.

### **Matthew 5:2**

***And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:***

- indication it is the start of a sermon.

### **Beatitudes**

- Structure
  - First 4: Relationship with God
  - Second 4: Relationship with others.

### *Blessed*

- "Markarios" in Greek
- An inward contentness that is not affected by circumstances.
  - A joy which is completely independent of all the circumstances of life.
- Contrast: "happy" in English not helpful
  - Root word is "hap", which relates to happenstance. Happiness is based on circumstances of life that can bring it or destroy it.
- Christian has the serene and untouchable joy which comes from walking forever in the company and in the presence of Jesus Christ (William Barclay)
  - God has proven to be trustworthy. We can still have peace when we are without or in trial.

### John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

### Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

### Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Knowing God is in control doesn't mean you do not feel the pain and challenges of trials.
  - But God provides peace knowing His ultimate will reigns.

### **Application Points**

To find happiness, we must look to Jesus. Jesus became like us so that we could become like Him.

- Otherwise, we look in the wrong places (ex: money, fame.)
- True happiness and fulfillment can only be found in Christ.

### Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

- Finding fulfillment everywhere but Jesus is like chasing after the wind.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.