

God Wants Me Happy

HAPPY MISTAKES:

- We try to **fake it**.
Psalm 34:13
- We try to **chase it**.
Ecclesiastes 1:14
- We try to **force it**.
Proverbs 25:20

DOES GOD CARE IF I'M HAPPY?

- **Enjoy** what God has **approved**.
1 Timothy 6:17/ James 1:17
- Let the **massive** blessings **sink in** deeply.
Colossians 1:27/ Colossians 3:16/ Romans 8:1
- Sometimes God **weeps** for us.
John 11:35

ARE THERE SOME THINGS BETTER THAN MY OWN HAPPINESS?

- ① **Someone else's** happiness.
Hebrews 11:25-26/ Ruth 1:17
- ② Wake-up calls that **return me to God**.
Amos 4:6-11/ Luke 15:16-17
- ③ Trials that **change my character**.
Matthew 5:3-10/ James 1:2-4
- ④ Sacrifices that expand **God's Kingdom**.
Jonah 4:6-11/ Mark 10:29-31

KEY QUESTION:

What are the **specific** times that we need to **delay** our happiness?

Food for Thought

For the week of July 22, 2007

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we heard how the trials that change our character can be better than our own happiness. In the *Sermon on the Mount*, Jesus listed a number of attitudes and actions that result in a blessing but would be considered by most as a challenge to put into practice. Read the *Sermon on the Mount* in Matthew 5:3-12 and write down the challenge followed by the blessing and then answer the questions below.

Verse	Challenge	Blessing
v. 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.		
v. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.		
v. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.		
v. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.		
v. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.		
v. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.		
v. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.		
v. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.		
v. 11 & 12 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. [12] Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.		

2. Looking back at the list above, which ones are easiest for you to put into practice? Which ones would be the most challenging? Are there any that you have sensed God's blessing when put into action?

3. The happiness God has for us is usually the result of doing the "right thing" as opposed to pursuing happiness in and of itself. That's why when we do the "tough, but right thing," a sense of contentment, joy or happiness can result. How could, making what is stated in the following verses, a priority result in contentment or happiness? How could pursuing happiness instead of what these verses state actually result in discontentment?

Proverbs 28:14

Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord,
but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble. [NIV]

James 1:25

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does. [NIV]

Psalms 146:5

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God, [NIV]

Job 5:17

"Blessed is the man whom God corrects;
so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. [NIV]

4. As a result of this week's teaching and/or study, is there anything you need to change, add or delay in your pursuit of happiness?