

Deep Happiness – Week 1 – Pastor Guy 4-24-22

1. What makes you happy?
2. What are some things that in your life that if they changed would bring you happiness?
3. Do you think that God wants you to be happy? Why or why not?

Matthew 5:2-12 - Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "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.

The beatitudes are the beginning of Jesus first recorded sermon known as the sermon on the mount. They are the foundation to his message and the foundation to Christian life. Each beatitude begins with the word 'blessed' or 'happy' which is the Greek word *Makarios* which is a deep, full happiness.

4. If you were to rate your current happiness on a scale of 1-100 where would you be at today?

Matthew 5:3 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5. Knowing that the first word of this statement (blessed) means 'deep happiness' what are your thoughts about Jesus' statement?
6. Pastor Guy said that another way to say this beatitude is, "Deeply happy flows from realizing I really, really, really need God. How does this change your view of this beatitude?
7. If you were to rate yourself on a scale of 1-100 on how much you need God, what would your rating be?
8. If you look back over this past week, what rating would your life reflect about your need for God?
9. What do you need God for?
10. How much of your life do you really have control over? How does this impact your need for God?
11. In this verse the word 'poor' means – you need to beg to survive. What does this say about the kind of spirit that brings deep happiness.
12. The kingdom of heaven (or kingdom of God) is the place where what God wants done, is being done. What are your thoughts about this? What were Jesus' thoughts on this? (Matthew 6:10)
13. Is the kingdom of God evident in your life? (John 3:3)
14. How does realizing your need for God impact how you view others need for God?
15. Where in this world do you see a need for God and His Kingdom to Come? What role can you play in bringing God's kingdom into this area?

James 4:8 - Come near to God and he will come near to you.

16. What does coming near to God look like for you?
17. How does your perceived need for God impact you drawing near to God?
18. What will you do this week to draw near to God? What will you do to realize your need for God?