

Your Invitation to a Spiritual Revolution

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 5:1-12*

- A. What is the absolute **happiest** moment you can remember? And the most **miserable**?
- B. How have the **circumstances** of your life impacted your happiness? And your unhappiness?
- C. Those who keep their spiritual bearings through the highs and lows of life are special people.

I. The “Blessed” Example of Jesus Christ — The Greatest Example of Sacred Happiness

- A. Jesus embodied “stubborn” joy and “heavenly” happiness.
 - 1. It didn’t hinge on his enjoying the perfect circumstances in every situation.
 - 2. It flowed out of a healthy, vibrant, intimate connection with God.
- B. This sacred happiness is available to those who build their lives on the rock (*Matt 7:24-27*).
 - 1. His most famous sermon begins with nine statements of special blessing (*Matt 5:3-12*).
 - 2. A more unlikely formula could hardly be imagined by those with minds set on this world.
 - 3. But in these statements, Jesus establishes the essential character of the kingdom of God and its citizens. And he offers an invitation to all—an invitation to a spiritual revolution!
- C. Sacred happiness is available to all, but this joy is not cheap.
 - 1. The “beatitudes” describe God’s radical reconstruction of the heart.
 - 2. They are to be a composite description of **every** citizen in the kingdom of God.

II. The Seeds of Sacred Happiness

- A. First, I recognize that I am in need (“*poor in spirit*”) — a new attitude toward **myself**.
- B. Second, I repent of my self-sufficiency (“*those who mourn*”) — a new attitude toward **God**.
- C. Third, I surrender control over to God (“*the meek*”) — a new attitude toward **authority**.
- D. Fourth, I yearn for more of God (“*hunger and thirst*”) — a new attitude toward **what matters**.
- E. Fifth, as I grow closer to him, I become more like him — a new attitude toward **others**.
- F. This is no casual shift of attitude. It is a demolition of the old and a recreation of the new.
 - 1. The same word is used by Paul to describe God (*1 Timothy 1:11; 6:15-16*).
 - 2. A child of the King is different in what he admires, values, thinks, feels, seeks, and does.

Questions for application this week:

- 1. What is keeping me from the “sacred happiness” that we talked about this morning?
- 2. How will finding and fighting for “sacred happiness” lead to practical changes in my life?
- 3. As I read the Sermon on the Mount this week (*Matthew 5-7*), how do I need to apply it:
 - a. on the job?
 - b. at school?
 - c. as a member of this church?
 - d. in my marriage? as a parent?