

# Happiness

Matthew 5:1-12



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**FOCAL Read Responsively** Matthew 5:1-12 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: (2) And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, (3) **Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** (4) Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. (5) **Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.** (6) Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (7) **Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.** (8) Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (9) **Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.** (10) Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) **Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.** (12) **Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

This was not the first sermon that Jesus ever preached. He preached His first sermons before He ever called *the twelve disciples* long before the Sermon on the Mount. We are told in

**Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

No – our Lord preached His first sermon long before the Sermon on the Mount when He was but a Child, perhaps

twelve years old. On that occasion Jesus' guardians found Him **preaching to the learned Rabbis of the Temple (Luke 2:46)**, and all were **“astonished at His understanding and His answers” (Luke 2:47)**. They heard His Word – **“they were astonished”** - but they did not understand. His guardians heard Jesus say:

**Luke 2:49 ... How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?**

Yet the Bible says **“and they understood not the saying which He spake unto them”**. Joseph and Mary understood that Jesus was the Miracle of God. They understood that God had sent Him to this earth to accomplish great things. They heard the angels sing, heard the proclamation of Gabriel, and yet .... hearing they could not understand. Spiritual things can only be understood by those who are spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:14). **The natural or soulish man cannot receive the things of God, for they are foolishness unto him.** God must open the heart and change the mind, else the mind of Christ can never be ours. **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

**It is the besetting sin of man to forget that God is a spirit, and that worship rendered to God must be of a spiritual kind. Idolatry is the full carrying out of this mischievous propensity. Instead of adoring the Great Invisible, and giving him the love of the heart, man sets up a block of wood or stone, and, burning incense and performing genuflections before it, he cries, “This is my god.” Where this idolatry does not**

**assume the very grossest form it takes another, which is equally as objectionable in the sight of God. Man pleads that he cannot worship God with his heart unless his memory be assisted by some outward object, and then he smuggles in his idol, and gratifies his depraved nature with will worship and outward formalism. God requires soul worship, and men give him body worship; he asks for the heart, and they present him with their lips; he demands their thoughts and their minds, and they give him banners, and vestments, and candles.”<sup>1</sup>**

We all need to study the Sermon on the Mount. Why? Because He is the Vine and we His Church are the branches. **The branch separated from the Vine is only fit to be a splinter to others. The branch separated from the Vine is a dead thing that pulls the other branches down.**

The Church in America today is slowly blending with society, and society is slowly merging into the Church. The change is gradual. Like the hour hand of the clock or the growth of the day-lily or of the grass you may not see the change, but it is occurring. Where does the fault lie? I fear that in most cases the fault lies with the leadership of the Church. It is easy it is to fall away from the Way of the Master. We must keep the eye of faith on Him, not on the multitude. Too often we point to everyone and try everything but Jesus. Those who have lost loved ones to physical death do not need “hired mourners” to hang around the casket. They need

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<sup>1</sup> THE HEART-A DEN OF EVIL. NO. 732 DELIVERED ON LORD'S-DAY MORNING, JANUARY 27TH, 1867, BY C. H. SPURGEON, AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON.

someone who will stand up and repeat the words Jesus said: “Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth.” (Matthew 9:24). No one needs the preacher or a friend to tearfully dig a hole while they stand in the valley of the shadow of death. Point them to Jesus – He is on the mountain. People fallen under the weight of sin do not need anyone to condone the wrong that they are doing. He who stands in quicksand is not helped by those who jump in after him. The sinner needs a rope thrown to them, the Lifeline that is Christ. “Throw out the Lifeline – someone is sinking today”. Listen Beloved, we must go up on the mountain with Jesus. We who are His people need to separate from the multitude of this world. We who are the multitude of Heaven (Revelation 7:9-10) need to do as John the Baptist did, to point up to Him Who sits on the mountain while saying “Look, the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sins of the world! Look, see Him on Zion's perch, high and lifted up, the Beloved Son of God! Look to Jesus, all ye people. Look to Him and be saved!

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

## **You Will Not Be Happy Unless You CENTER Your Life ON Jesus**

**FOCAL** Matthew 5:1-3 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: (2) And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, (3) Blessed<sup>2</sup> ...

2 G3107, μακάριος, makarios, mak-ar'-ee-os, A prolonged form of the poetical μακάριος makar (meaning the same); supremely *blest*; by extension *fortunate, well off*: - blessed, happy (X -ier).

How many times is the word “blessed” in this sermon? What does the word mean? \_\_\_\_\_

Our Lord Jesus uses the word translated “**blessed**” *nine times* in His Sermon on the Mount. This is actually a word which means “**you are well off**” or “**happy are you**”. Jesus says “**Happy are you**”. Happy? We all like to be “Happy”, we all like to have joy in our hearts bubbling outward. So what does Jesus, our Lord and Master, tell us will make us “Happy”? Look what He says:

**Focal** Matthew 5:3 **Blessed [are] the poor in spirit:** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed are the poor?** No, I think I heard Jesus wrong. I've heard so many preachers today teach a “name it and claim it” prosperity Gospel that I just can't believe that. **Blessed are the poor?** No, surely I heard Him wrong.

**Focus** Matthew 5:4 **Blessed [are] they that mourn<sup>3</sup>:** for they shall be comforted.

**Happy are they that mourn?** Those that cry? Jesus actually said “**Happy are those who are grieving and constantly mourning**”. How can that make any sense? How can I be happy if I am in constant mourning?

3 Present Active Participle of G3996, πενθέω, pentheō, pen-theh'-o, From G3997; to *grieve (the feeling or the act)*: - mourn, (be-) wail.

**Focus** Matthew 5:5 **Blessed [are] the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.**

How can the meek, the **humble be happy**? Doesn't Jesus know that "He who dies with the most toys wins"? Doesn't He know that "only the strong survive"? These things cannot be!

You're right – these things cannot be *in our own power*. When we look at our own lives and try to do anything in our own power we, like the Apostle, cry out:

**Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?**

What is my hope? What hope do I have to be happy in this life filled with heartache? Who among us has not been poor, betrayed, hungry and thirsty? Who among us has not been reviled and persecuted? Who among us has not hurt?

How shall I be happy? If I will be happy, then I must follow my Lord.

**FOCAL** Matthew 5:1-3 **And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:**

**Seeing the multitudes, Jesus went up into a mountain.**

If you want to rise above the despair that this life offers, then you *must* follow your Lord **up into a mountain**. You must be where He is at all times. Jesus Christ carried His message of *salvation by faith* out to the multitudes. He preached the Gospel of salvation, telling all who would heed that

**Mark 1:15 ... The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Jesus presented Himself as the Lamb of God. He told the masses that He was the only Way to Peace with God. Jesus told the multitudes that *hellfire was certain, and that condemnation was sure for all who rejected Him as Savior*. Jesus preached in another place:

**Luke 17:29-30, 32-33 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all. (30) Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. ... (32) Remember Lot's wife. (33) Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.**

The multitudes would not hear. They chased Jesus seeking physical healing. They followed Him and begged Him to cure them of blindness, leprosy, crippling, heart disease, epilepsy, demon possession,

and even death. Our Lord healed all who came to Him in faith – **but He left the multitudes when He went up into the mountain.**

What do the “multitudes” want from Jesus? What does Jesus offer?

The multitudes want a quick fix. The masses want this life made whole. Yet this is not what Jesus offered. Jesus doesn't offer cosmetic fixes. When He comes into the life, He changes us *from the inside out*. Listen Beloved, you can stay in the valley with the multitudes and be just like every body else.

You can make the center of your life *yourself*. You can live for *you*, and be for *you*, and die serving *you* – but you will never be blessed unless **you leave the multitudes and get up on the mountain with Jesus.**

See Him, high and lifted up. One day you shall – if you are saved by faith – look up and see Him enthroned. Look at the Heavenly Bride of Christ, the Church cleansed of all sin. Do you see it in a valley, in among the masses of the world? No! Look what John the Revelator says:

**Revelation 21:9-11, 22-25** And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. (10) And **he carried me away in the**

**spirit to a great and high mountain,** and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, (11) Having the glory of God: and her light [was] like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal .... (22) And **I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.** (23) And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof. (24) And the **nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it:** and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

If the Heavenly Bride will one day be **on the mountain** with Jesus, don't you think that she should be **on the mountain with Him even now?**

There is nothing but happiness in Heaven because **all are on the mountain with Jesus.** You can have no happiness on this earth unless **you are on the mountain with Jesus.**

**Illustrate** Oh, we'll try other ways to be happy. I saw just the other day a display for a sports channel. On that display I saw pictures of men and women with their faces painted the colors of their teams. Some men were stripped down to their waists and their chests were painted the team colors. Some even wore funny hats, and

had giant foam fingers that they put on their hands so they could say “our team is number one”. That’s fine, if you want to do that. But no matter how good your team is, no matter how fast your driver is or how well your pitcher throws, the joy you receive from them only comes *when they are winning*. When they lose do you cheer? Do you, when your team loses the Super Bowl or some other sporting event, stand up and dance a jig? No, you don’t. The happiness of this world is fleeting. It is here, then it goes. Follow the masses. Today they cheer for Jesus. Tomorrow they cry out, “**Free Barabbas, let’s kill Jesus!**” No, there’s no happiness in the way of the world. **Some will let the devil take them up a mountain.** Remember that Satan tempted Jesus by taking

Matthew 4:8-9 ... **him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.**

The devil took the Lord up on a high mountain, but the Lord rejected the temptation. We are to do as He did, rejecting Satan, and ascending only where Jesus bids we go.

The devil will do that with you, if you let him. So many people have wasted their lives by trusting Satan and his power in this life rather than following Jesus up the mountain. **Remember the words of Dr. R.G. Lee - “the**

**devil always pays in counterfeit money”<sup>4</sup>.** You may see happiness for a while in chasing after the things of this world, but in time the happiness they bring will fade away. You can only find *great happiness* with Jesus because ***He is on the mountain with God.***

**Focal** Matthew 5:3 **Blessed [are] the poor in spirit:** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed are the poor?** Are you poor? Do you have needs? Perhaps your needs have depressed you. If so, give yourself fully to Jesus. **Like His disciples go to Him and go with Him.** If I am poor, or poor in spirit but Jesus is with me, then we will get through this together.

**Focus** Matthew 5:4 **Blessed [are] they that mourn<sup>5</sup>:** for they shall be comforted.

“Happy are those who are grieving and constantly mourning”. Have you lost someone you loved? Do you mourn for the husband or wife or child who has become separated from you by physical death. Then like His disciples, **go to Jesus on the mountain.** Be with Him – focus on Him – hear what He has to say.

**You Will Not Be Happy Unless  
You STAY In The Presence of Jesus**

**FOCAL** Matthew 5:1 **And seeing the multitudes, he**

<sup>4</sup> paraphrased

<sup>5</sup> Present Active Participle of G3996, πενθέω, pentheō, pen-theh'-o, From G3997; to grieve (the feeling or the act): - mourn, (be-) wail.

went up into a mountain: and **when he was set<sup>6</sup>, his disciples came unto him:**

Every Christian, saved by faith in Jesus Christ, is *indwelt* by God. We possess the Spirit of Christ:

**Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

God lives inside of the believer – you are His **disciple**. But if you want to find happiness in this life then you *must set yourself with Christ and not with the world.*

Why did Jesus go up on this mountain to preach? I always assumed it was so more people could hear Him, or so that His voice would carry farther. Yet I wonder. If you look at the text you see **when He was set His disciples – His students – came unto Him**. The masses didn't come. They were there when He was in the valley, begging Him to heal. But now that He teaches they are no where to be seen. That's not hard to understand, though, for the Scripture says:

**John 1:10-11 He was in the world, and the**

<sup>6</sup> Aorist Active Participle of G2523, καθίζω, kathizō, *kath-id'-zo*, Another (active) form for G2516; to *seat down*, that is, *set* (figuratively *appoint*); intransitively to *sit* (down); figuratively to *settle* (*hover, dwell*): - continue, set, sit (down), tarry.

**world was made by him, and the world knew him not. (11) He came unto his own, and his own received him not.**

The world is looking for the quick fix. The world is looking for entertainment. Jesus said:

**Luke 7:31-32 ... Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like? (32) They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.**

We who are His are not of this world. We **are His disciples. When He is set, we need to go to Him**. The world expects Jesus to chase them around and entertain them. Jesus expects us Whom He has saved to **follow Him**.

If you will not discipline yourselves to *go up the mountain and set with Christ* then you will never find the place of spiritual power. Jesus came to do His Father's will. He did the Father's will even unto death – **and has been exalted beyond ever name of man**. Here's a great truth:

**Where your heart is set, the life will follow.**

Was the Samaritan woman's heart set on Jesus at first? What about later? What happened in her life as a result of making Christ first?

If your heart is set on Jesus, then your life will follow Jesus. If your heart is set on yourself, then you will never find the power of the mountain of God. The Samaritan woman at the well told Jesus:

John 4:19-20 ... Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. (20) **Our fathers worshiped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.**

You know what Jesus told her? He didn't argue with her. He didn't debate. What He told her was:

John 4:21-23 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, **the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. (22) Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. (23) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.**

God is seeking people who will worship Him in Spirit

**and in truth.** He is calling to Himself a people who will **go up on the mountain with Jesus, and hear and know Him.** Jesus Christ presented Himself as the Messiah, **the only Way to God.** And when this Samaritan woman understood this great principle *she got right with God.* *She accepted Jesus Christ as both Lord and Savior, and became one of His disciples.*

## **Why Is It That I Am Not Happy? What Can I Do?**

What does the Psalmist David show me about happiness in this life?

Why am I unhappy? Why does my life seem mundane? One day flows into the next with little change. Why? May I say, dear ones, it is because **you do not consistently sit at the feet of Jesus.** Early in the Psalms King David wrote:

Psalms 21:1 **The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!**

Can you not hear the happiness in his heart? The Lord was close to the King David. David was the “apple of God's eye”, the delight of the Almighty's heart. How the Lord loved David, for David loved the Lord. **Like Mary, he loved to sit and ponder the Lord Jesus, to read His Word, to be with Him in prayer.** And yet, just a few Psalms later we read:

**Psalms 51:9-12 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. (11) Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. (12) Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me [with thy] free spirit.**

How does someone go from “in Thy salvation, O Lord, I greatly rejoice” to “restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation”? How does one's day turn to night, how does the sun become black at noonday? **King David left the mountain where Jesus was, and returned to the multitudes.** King David turned his eyes to Bathsheba and lost the joy of his salvation.

Hear me, loved ones – if you are not happy in your walk with the Lord, then it is because you're not walking with the Lord. I know life's not fair. We hurt, we ache, we are betrayed. Yet if you want to be able to say – as Jesus preached -

**FOCAL Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my**

**sake. (12) Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

**Happiness to those who are persecuted! Happy are you when men tell lies on you, and gossip about you, and do all manner of false things against you! REJOICE, and be deliriously happy! How can that be? This can only be if you stay where God has told you to stay, and you stand where God has told you to stand. May I be even more plain?**

What are five things that every person in this room should do?

1. Make sure that you are saved. If you have **confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and turned your life over to Him, then you are saved. If saved, God dwells in you!**
2. Make sure you are straight with God. Confess known sin in your lives, repent of them, and ask God to forgive them in the Name of Jesus.
3. Seat yourself with Christ on the mountain of God. Begin to pray. Begin to read your Bible. Stop making excuses and get in Church. If this isn't your Church home, then get out and find one.
4. Become a “living stone” in God's Church. You have been called to work for Him. Jesus never called a disciple with “making them fishers of men”. Finally,
5. Say that you love Jesus to those you meet. Give the Word of your testimony. If you're saved, say

so. As the Scripture says:

**Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say [so], whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;**

If you're saved, you're saved for a purpose. Live for Him.  
May God touch your hearts with these words.

