

JESUS GREATEST HITS PT4
Growth Group Notes Week 1
PASTOR BOB RICE: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Main Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Hit: Happy

Premise: Happiness is found in unusual places that we may never look. This may be why few truly find it.

¹And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

²Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.

⁷Blessed *are* the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.

⁸Blessed *are* the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.

⁹Blessed *are* the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

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

Notes:

1. The Sermon on the Mount begins with one of Jesus' best known teachings commonly known as "The Beatitudes".
2. The Beatitudes address one of life's greatest pursuits, happiness, and how we can get it.
3. Blessed – God sent goodness also known as happiness.
4. God is the source of all blessing.
5. There is an if- then conditional cause and effect relationship between certain attitudes and what we can expect to receive from God.
6. Happiness is found in unusual places that we may never look. This may be why few truly find it.
7. The Beatitudes are to be our attitudes if we want to find true happiness in life.
8. Definitions of The Beatitudes and their results:
 1. Matthew 5:3
 - a. Poor in Spirit – Humility, the recognition that we are spiritually bankrupt and have nothing to offer God. This is the only starting point for any authentic journey with God.
 - b. The Kingdom of Heaven- all the wealth of the physical and spiritual universes.
 2. Matthew 5:4
 - a. Mourning – an acute emotional response that stems from the recognition of personal irretrievable catastrophic loss.
 - b. Comfort- Complete emotional relief.
 3. Matthew 5:5
 - a. Meekness – to have your strength, will, and passions under the control of the master.
 - b. Inherit the Earth – to possess joint legal title and rights to planet earth.
 4. Matthew 5:6
 - a. Hunger and thirst for righteousness – A sincere longing for a right relationship with God.
 - b. Being filled – To achieve perfect standing with God.
 5. Matthew 5:7
 - a. Merciful – To forgo extracting the just penalty due you for a wrong done to you or something you care about.
 - b. Obtaining mercy – Not receiving the just penalty due you for a wrong done by you.
 6. Matthew 5:8
 - a. Pure in heart – Possessing a single minded decision making process based on adherence to the word of God.
 - b. Shall see God – They shall see God's will and one day see his face.

7. Matthew 5:9

- a.* Peacemaker – One who solves differences between adversaries to produce a win-win result.
- b.* Sons of God – We look like our father and will receive the inheritance of a son.

8. Matthew 5:10

- a.* Persecuted for Righteousness' sake – To suffer evil from the hands of people for doing the right thing.
- b.* The Kingdom of Heaven – The eternal kingdom where God reigns.

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Questions:

1. From Sunday's Sermon, was there a particular point, comment, or scripture that caught your attention or challenged you?

2. Give an example of someone who modeled the beatitude of being Poor in Spirit. Be sure to show how your example fits the definition.

3. Why is being Poor in Spirit the only starting point for any authentic journey with God.

4. What is meekness? Give an example of a biblical character that demonstrated meekness.

5. What does it look like to Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness?

6. What drawbacks do people face in being merciful?

7. Do the benefits given to the merciful outweigh the drawbacks?

8. Why is being pure in heart a key to happiness?

9. Why is being a peacemaker important in this day and age?
