

Happiness According to Jesus

Do you want to be happy? How can a person be happy? What is the key to happiness? I bet if you were to ask ten different people, "what is the key to happiness?" You would get ten different answers. People seem to have their own view of happiness.

What is the key to happiness according to Jesus?

HAPPINESS IS BECOMING A SERVANT OF OTHERS.

I may not be able to convince you that this is true because this viewpoint is not from me. It is from Jesus. I may not be able to convince you that happiness is found in serving others, but I can at least walk us through John 13 to show you that Jesus taught happiness comes when you volunteer yourself for the benefit of others.

This text can be broken down into 5 parts.

Part #1 - John sets the scene by emphasizing the drama of the event. 13:1-3

Jesus knew what was coming for Him, and He was thinking about suffering, dying, leaving this world, and going back to the Father. But, do you know what John tells us stood out in his mind? Love. John wrote, having loved His own, He loved them to the end.

Part #2 - Jesus, in His love, does something for the disciples in order to teach them a key lesson. 13:4-5

Jesus is the leader of this bunch. He is the key teacher. He is the boss. He is the authority. In fact, the Bible tells us that He is the name above every name. The Bible tells us that in the beginning, Jesus was God. He is God. All things were made through Him, and without Him, nothing was made that was made. He is The Creator, and yet, what we have is Jesus, God in human flesh, removing His outer garments in order to put on a servant's towel to stoop down to the floor and do a servant's job: wash the feet of another.

The humility of Jesus is beyond our comprehension.

When Jesus stooped down to wash the disciples feet, He did that not only to demonstrate His love for each and every one of them, but He also did that to teach them a lesson. His purpose in doing that was to teach them a lesson. Now, before Jesus was able to explain the lesson, He got sidetracked by one of His disciples.

Part #3 - Peter attempts to stop Jesus, bringing Jesus on a rabbit trail where He teaches two critical theological points. 13:6-11

(Theological Point #1) - To have fellowship with Christ, a believer must allow Christ to clean him up after he commits a sin. 13:6-7

When Jesus told Peter, you will have no share with me if you do not let me wash your feet, Jesus was talking about a close fellowship with Christ.

Once we believe on Christ, we begin a relationship with the triune God whereby He adopts us as His child forever, forgiving us of our sin condition before Him, but when we sin after becoming His child, that will hinder our fellowship. Our fellowship with Christ is hindered when we sin against Him. So, how can we

restore a close fellowship with Christ after we hurt that fellowship through sin? We go to Him and confess our sin. **1 John 1:9** - *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

(Theological point #2) - A believer in Christ can be confident of his eternal security in salvation. 13:10-11

When you believe in Jesus, you are eternally forgiven of sins. That is when you are washed. That is when you are cleansed. Upon faith in Jesus and Him dying on that cross for you and rising again, you are a forgiven, secure child of God.

Part #4 - Jesus brings the group back to the primary lesson he was intending to teach his disciples. 13:12-17

What is the key to happiness according to our Lord? Happiness is becoming a servant of others. Happiness is seeing others as greater than yourself and living like it too. Happiness is volunteering yourself for the benefit of another. According to Jesus, blessed are you if you do as He did. What did He do? He got up from His rightful place of honor at the table, and He stooped down to clean dirty feet.

What does doing as Jesus has done look like? I'd suggest for you to put into practice these phrases:

- What can I do to help you?
- What can I do to make that person's day?
- How can I make life easier for the people around me?
- Yes, Sir. Yes, Ma'am.
- What can I say to build that person up?
- How can I pray for that person?

Those are just some of my ideas, but I'd challenge you with this. Let your imagination run wild in this regard. Happiness is volunteering yourself for the benefit of others - becoming a servant of others. God will make you happy when you act as a servant of someone else. How might you this week, how might you today volunteer yourself for the benefit of another?

Part #5 - Jesus tells them not to be surprised when His words come true. 13:18-20

Jesus told his disciples, I am telling you about one who will betray Me beforehand so that when my words come true, you will know that I was right, and your faith in me will grow. That is what He was telling the disciples, but I'd propose to you that in light of what we have looked at so far this morning, this is how we can apply it.

Jesus is one who made claims beforehand about what would happen. He claimed if you serve others, you will be happy. Our challenge today from the word of God is this: go see for yourself if Jesus' words are true.

Happiness is becoming a servant of others.