

# Pathway to Happiness

Solomon was the most magnificent king who ever lived. If there was anyone who should have been happy, it should have been him. Yet he describes it all as *futile* and a *pursuit of the wind*. True happiness is not found in this world. There is no satisfaction in what the world offers. The things of this world actually become the fuel for pride and lust and turn into a trap. True happiness that feeds our soul is not found here. Jesus is concerned with our happiness. The Sermon on the Mount shows us the pathway to real happiness. What is the lifestyle that produces it?

## I. The Pathway to Happiness is Not:

- A. Found in Politics
  - 1. The Jews looked for a political ruler who would ride in on a white horse and conquer their great enemy - the Romans.
  - 2. John 6.14-15: they tried to rush Him and make Him a **king**.
  - 3. There is no politics in the sermon on the mount.
    - a) The stress in the sermon on the mount is being.
    - b) He is not after *what* we do ... he is after *who* we are. *Who we are determines what we do*.
- B. Found in Religion
  - 1. Religion is not just about external observance.
  - 2. True religion is found on the inside.
  - 3. This is what Jeremiah promised: *I will put my teaching within them and write it on their **hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

## II. The Pathway to Happiness is only Found in the Kingdom

- A. Matthew 5.3-16 - Who Are the citizens of the Kingdom and what things lead to their happiness
  - 1. Matthew 5.3 - those who are poor in spirit; Matthew 5.4 - those who mourn.
  - 2. Matthew 5.5 - those who are **humble**; Matthew 5.6 - hunger/thirst after righteousness
  - 3. Matthew 5.7 - those who are merciful; Matthew 5.8 - those who are **pure** in heart
  - 4. Matthew 5.9 - those who are peacemakers; Matthew 5.10 - the persecuted and reviled
  - 5. What is the purpose of the citizens of God's kingdom?
    - a) Matthew 5.13 - they are **salt**.
    - b) Matthew 5.14 - they are **light**.
- B. Matthew 5.17-7.12 - The Righteousness of the Kingdom
  - 1. Those in the kingdom lead righteous lives: *For I tell you, unless your **righteousness** surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.*
  - 2. What does righteousness look like?
    - a) positive relationships; sexual purity; integrity; spirit of giving; love *in all situations*.
    - b) it does not practice religion for show or public acclaim; it lays up treasures in heaven; it treats others the way they want to be treated.
- C. Matthew 7.13-27 - The Exhortation to Enter the Kingdom
  - 1. Matthew 7.13-14 - Enter through the **narrow** gate that leads to life.
  - 2. It is difficult because:
    - a) 7.15-20 - False prophets. We can be deceived by others.
    - b) 7.21-27 - False profession. We can be deceived by ourself.

## III. As We Close...

- A. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus speaks of true happiness and peace.
- B. Not just in the life to come ... but a promise of it being the actual experience of it now.
- C. It's about being. He is not after what we do ... he is after who we are.