

The Upside down Kingdom

Part 2

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

IT HELPS TO Understand what joy is.

Happiness is not Joy

Joy/ Rejoice is found 330 times in scripture.....happiness only 26 times

Happiness is an emotion from circumstances

.....Joy is an inner delight

I FEEL HAPPY

You can even have JOY when you are NOT FEELING Happy

Chuck Swindol says, "Joy is a positive attitude we choose to express!"

Happiness is a situation by situation feeling!

Sometimes I am happy....sometimes I am sad!

JOY is not a feeling or emotion....it is an inner delight/ peace/fulfillment

Nehemiah 8:10 The Joy of The Lord is our strength!!

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

IN THIS SERIES WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE “KINGDOM OF GOD”

Luke 17:20-21 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “**The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,** ²¹ nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because **the kingdom of God is in your midst.**”

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Is at hand)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING!

- The kingdom of this world is about power, greed, riches & dominance.
- The Kingdom Jesus demonstrated was selfless, humble, generous and eternal!

TWO VERY OPPOSITE MIND SETS! “THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM”

MAIN LESSONS:

The less you judge people....the more free you are! (less you will be judged)

The more generous you are....the richer you are.

The weaker you are.....the stronger you are in the Kingdom of God.

The greatest leader is the greatest servant.

To be first..... you must serve and be last.

True victory comes through surrender. Giving up control!

The more you lose yourselfthe more you will find yourself.

To truly live you must die to yourself. (More of God and less of me)

Love your enemies and bless those that curse you.

Pride leads to destruction.....God hears the prayers from humble hearts.

You have to receive his Kingdom with Faith like a child.

Not Building for now.....for future in heaven. Treasures in Heaven.

When someone slaps you.....turn to the other cheek.

MOST PIVOTAL.....Not the law that leads to salvation.....it is faith in Jesus!

LET'S LOOK AT THE LONGEST SERMON JESUS EVER PREACHED!

Matthew 5:3-10 "The Sermon on the Mount"

**³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.**

**⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.**

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

**⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.**

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,

- for they will see God.
- ⁹ **Blessed are the peacemakers,**
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,**
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THIS IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE!

These are not the thoughts of an “EARTHLY” KINGDOM!

THIS IS THE “UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM”

1 Peter 2:11 says we are strangers and foreigners in this world.

These are not concepts naturally at work in our world....

THEY ARE ETERNAL CONCEPTS THAT GIVE US TRUE JOY!

This expression “BLESSED” held a powerful meaning of "divine joy and perfect happiness" to the people of Christ's day.

-Jesus uses the word to refer to more than a superficial happiness.

-in this context, *blessed* refers to a
state of spiritual well-being and prosperity.

-The happiness is a deep joy of the soul

In other words, Jesus was saying "divinely happy and fortunate are those who possess these inward qualities."

2 PARTS TO EACH OF THE BEATITUDES:

While speaking of a current "blessedness," each pronouncement also promised a future reward.

Those who experience the first aspect of a beatitude:

- poor in spirit, mourn, meek, hungry for righteousness
- merciful, pure, peacemakers, and persecuted

Will also experience the second aspect of the beatitude:

- kingdom of heaven, comfort, inherit the earth, filled, mercy,
- see God, called sons of God, inherit the kingdom of heaven

I AM GOING TO BREAK THIS DOWN LINE BY LINE:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The phrase "poor in spirit" speaks of a spiritual condition of poverty. It describes the person who recognizes their need for God.

"The kingdom of heaven" refers to people who acknowledge God as King. Those poor in spirit know they are spiritually bankrupt apart from Jesus Christ.

Paraphrase: "True Joy belongs to those who humbly recognize their need for God, for they will enter into his kingdom."

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Those who mourn" is not talking about loss or death in our lives, it's speaks of those who express deep sorrow over sin and repent from their sins.

The freedom found in forgiveness of sin and the joy of eternal salvation is the comfort of those who repent.

Paraphrase: "True Joy belongs to those who mourn for their sins, for they shall receive forgiveness and life eternal."

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

The meek are those who submit to God's authority and make him Lord. Meekness is not weakness, as imitators of Jesus we exemplify gentleness and self-control. Revelation 21:7 says God's children will "inherit all things."

Paraphrase: "True Joy belongs to those who submit to God as Lord, for they will inherit everything he possesses."

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Hunger" and "thirst" speak of deep need and driving passion to be in "Right Standing" with God. A deep desire to live for Jesus, not for our own desires. To "be filled" is the satisfaction of our soul's desire.

Paraphrase: "True Joy belongs to those who passionately long for Jesus, for he will satisfy their souls."

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

We reap what we sow. Those who demonstrate mercy will receive mercy. Those who have received great mercy will show great mercy. Mercy is shown through forgiveness, kindness, and compassion toward others.

Paraphrase: " True Joy belongs to those who show mercy through forgiveness, kindness, and compassion, for they will receive mercy."

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

The "pure in heart" are those who have been cleansed from within. This is not outward righteousness that can be seen by men, but inward holiness that only God can see. 1 John 1:9 "If we confess, He will cleanse us from our sins" Hebrews 12:14 says that without holiness, no one will see God.

Paraphrase: "True Joy belongs to those who have been purified from the inside out, being made clean and holy, for they will see God."

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

The Bible says we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. The Good News! 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 says God entrusts us with this same message of reconciliation to take to others.

Paraphrase: "True Joy belongs to those who have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and bring this same message of reconciliation to others. All who have peace with God are his children."

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus faced persecution, so will his followers. God will strengthen us to stand on His Truth even in the face of persecution. Our eyes are on His Kingdom! In the end.....We win, and our reward is Heaven!

Paraphrase: "True Joy belongs to those who stand up for truth and face persecution, for they will receive the kingdom of heaven."

THIS IS AN ETERNAL KIND OF THINKING & LIVING & LOVING!

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control.
JESUS GOES FROM THERE INTO BEING SALT & LIGHT:**

Matthew 5:13-16 - “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

PRACTICAL! HOW TO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

MY LIST “BE-ATTITUDES”

Be nice.....even if you have no skills that make you stand out, this will still make you stand out!

Be generous.....Don’t be a cheap Christian!

Be gracious.....you need a lot, so give a lot!

Be careful.....Watch your words and actions!

-“Surely your sin will find you out”

-Everything you say can and will be used against you!

-Quote: It’s not that I don’t trust you, I don’t trust who you will tell.

Be a developer..... Invest in others! Add value to people around you.

Be connected.....Relationships are the currency of life! Be authentic and real!

Be humble.....Pride goes before the fall.

-God will let us do it on our own if we choose.

Be Confident.....God made you to be you, not someone else!

God has unique plans for you! (not the same as others)

-Comparison is a killer! It either brings pride or jealousy!!

Be responsible.....Work hard, play hard.

-When asked to do something, make sure you get it done!

Be a learner.....Don't get comfortable. Good is the enemy of great!

Be Focused.....Don't get distracted!
-Keep the main thing, the main thing! TRUTH

Be a dreamer.....What's next! Never stop!!
-There is always more! Eph 3:20

Be Obedient....."Immediate Obedience" Just say yes!
- SUPER-NATURAL (Just do your part)

Be Grounded.....Speak the "TRUTH" in love! Don't stray from God's word!

Be in love with Jesus.....ABOVE ALL!
John 15 Abide - Apart you can do nothing!

Be Faithful.....Long to hear "Well done good and faithful servant"

**2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have FINISHED
the race, I have kept the faith, and now there is in store for me a
crown of righteousness.**

TAKE AWAY: Don't just DO.....BE!

**"YOU WON'T BE REMEMBERED FOR WHAT YOU DID.....YOU WILL
BE REMEMBERED FOR WHO YOU WERE"**