

March 4th 2018

Paradoxes of True Happiness
Part I – Our standing before God
Matthew 5:1-6

Introduction:

- Matt 5:1-11 is called, “The Beatitudes” (Latin for “a happy state”) because each sentence begins with the word b_____.
 1. Verses 1-6 deal with a believer’s standing before G_____
 2. Verses 7-11 deal with a believer’s standing before p_____
- Chapters 5-7 is a section known as “The S_____ on the Mount”
 1. The immediate audience – the d_____
 2. The secondary audience – the c_____
- Questions to consider
 1. Are you happy? Why or why not?
 2. Will I accept Jesus’s definition of true happiness and base my life on that?
- Each beatitude is a p_____ (a statement that at first glance looks contradictory but, after pondering it, makes perfect sense.

Wealthy B_____ (3)

- The statement of happiness - *Happy are the poor in spirit*
 1. There are two Greek words which are translated as “poor”
 - a. One refers to a g_____ state of poverty (this word is used in Lk 21:2 to describe the widow before she gave her two mites)
 - b. The other refers to a specific state of having n_____ (this word is used in Lk 21:3 to describe the widow after she gave all she had)
 - c. The word Jesus used is the one that means having nothing and literally means to be in a crouched position. It pictures a b_____ who is completely dependent on the charity of others.
 2. The realm of having nothing is in the s_____
 - a. Therefore, this does not refer to f_____ beggars
 - b. This refers to spiritual beggars who are dependent upon the m_____ of the Lord to give to them.
- The reason for happiness – *For theirs is the kingdom of heaven*
 1. The kingdom of heaven is the realm in which Jesus reigns effectively as k_____.
 2. Those who are completely dependent on the Lord’s mercy have received from Him this kingdom (Col 1:13).
- What the world has to offer is t_____ (money, fame, popularity, success, pleasure) but the kingdom of God is eternal.
Happy are the spiritual beggars, for Jesus reigns over them.

Comforted M_____ (4)

- The statement of happiness - *Happy are those who mourn*
 1. This does not refer to an instance of mourning but a l_____ of mourning.
 2. This does not refer to mourning before people but mourning before G_____ (Jms 4:9).
 3. These mourners mourn over their s_____
 - a. Many religious people today use religion as an e_____ to sin (*God will forgive me; My good will outweigh the bad*)
 - b. Mourning over sin requires r_____
- The reason for happiness - *For they shall be comforted.*
 1. How does God comfort us when we mourn over our sins?
 - a. He does not say, "That's okay."
 - b. He says, "You are f_____ of all your sins" (Jer 31:34) – accept it and move on.
 2. *Happy are those who have the lifestyle of mourning over their sin because God will comfort them with His forgiveness.*

Exalted H_____ ones (5)

- The statement of happiness - *Happy are the gentle (meek)*
 1. This is an adaptation of Psalm 37:11 which points out that the wicked p_____ while the humble believer suffers.
 2. The word that Jesus used (gentle, meek) has a very wide meaning and can mean h_____ (see this same Greek word used in Matt 11:29; 21:5)
 3. The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Lk 18:9-14) illustrates spiritual pride and spiritual humility.
 - a. The Pharisee was c_____ for his pride
 - b. The tax collector was e_____ by God for his humility.
 4. Being humble (gentle, meek) means that I exalt God and I willingly put myself under Him
- The reason for happiness - *For they will inherit the earth*
 1. This is an adaptation of Ps 37:11 which refers to the p_____ land of Canaan.
 2. Jesus widens the meaning to the n_____ earth (Rev 21:5)
- We should never be j_____ over unbelievers who prosper.
 1. We have God who o_____ everything.
 2. He will give us e_____
- Happy are those who humble themselves before God, for He will exalt them by giving them the new earth.*

Satisfied S_____ ones (6)

- The statement of happiness - *Happy are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness*
 1. In Jesus's day righteousness took on an outward form only - attained by d_____ good.
 2. In Matthew's gospel righteousness is a matter of the h_____ and refers to a right standing with God.
 3. Applying this definition – *happy are those who hunger and thirst after a right standing with God.*
 - a. The language requires someone else to g_____ us this righteousness (right standing with God).
 - b. Only God can give us His righteousness (Phil 3:19)
- The reason for happiness - *For they will be filled*
 1. They will be filled with what? – with His r_____
 - a. Our own righteousness is like a filthy r_____ to God (Is 64:6) – He cannot accept our best!
 - b. This filling is a g_____ from God.
 2. *Happy are those who hunger and thirst for a right standing with God because God will fill them with His righteousness.*

Accept all that God has to offer in Jesus Christ and be blessed!