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Paradoxes of True Happiness
Part 2 – Our activity among people

Matthew 5:7-12

Introduction:

● Circle T for true or F for false:

1. All believers in Christ are happy. T F
2. Some believers in Christ do not realize that they are happy. T F

● Last week we learned who is happy:

1. Those who are p_____ in spirit (depend upon the Lord's mercy).
2. Those who have the lifestyle of m_____ (over their sin).
3. Those who are gentle (h_____ before the Lord).
4. Those who have the lifestyle of hungering and thirsting after a r_____ standing with God.

● Last we learned why these are happy – because of what God does for us or will do for us:

1. He has given us His k_____.
2. He will c_____ us with His forgiveness.
3. He will give us the new e_____ as an inheritance
4. He f_____ us with His righteousness.

● This week's message:

1. Will show that certain activity is a r_____ of true happiness.
2. Will show that the only reason we do good things is because God did g_____ to us first.

Characterized by Imparting M_____ (7)

Happy are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

● The point:

1. It DOES NOT say that receiving mercy is a r_____ for imparting mercy.
 - a. Rom 9:15,16 states that God showing mercy is not d_____ but is a gift.
 - b. Definition of showing mercy - having p_____ on one's condition (see 1 Tim 1:13 where the mercy is salvation).
2. It DOES say that the merciful are happy b_____ they will receive mercy.
 - a. God showed mercy when He saved us from the p_____ of sin (Titus 1:3; 1 Pet 1:3).
 - b. God will show mercy to us by saving us from the p_____ of sin (provides the power to overcome sin).

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- c. God will finish showing mercy to us by saving us from the p_____ of sin (Phil 1:6).
3. Being merciful is a l_____ that results from God supplying us the power to overcome sin.
 - a. If we fail to show mercy in a situation, does that automatically mean that we do not have the lifestyle of being merciful? _____
 - b. Sin does not c_____ the believer. When we sin we are acting OUT OF character not in character.
- Examples of imparting mercy to others (having pity on a person's condition so as to be moved to action)
 1. P_____ for a person's salvation
 2. H_____ someone in need
 3. F_____ someone who has sinned against you.
- Examples of God imparting mercy to us
 1. When we struggle with temptation, He provides the way to e_____ (1 Cor 10:13).
 2. When we give in to sin, God showers us with His f_____ (1 Jn 1:9).
 3. When we persist in sin, God d_____ us to move us to repentance (1 Cor 11:32).

Characterized by Pure M_____ (8)

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

- Purity of heart cannot be immediately seen because it has to do with our m_____
 1. The world's motives are basically s_____.
 2. The true believer's motives are basically uns_____.
 - a. This does not mean that if we gain some kind of benefit for doing something "unselfish" that we have impure motives.
 - b. This does mean that our p_____ motivation is not selfish and that we are always "Above board" with any secondary motivations.
- Examples of a pure heart in action
 1. Spending private time p_____ for others.
 2. Giving of finances for the advancement of God's k_____.
 3. Serving others to benefit them.
- Purity of heart
 1. Is not acquired by our own e_____.
 2. It is the result of God saving us from our impurities (sins)
 - a. Selfishness k_____ us spiritually (Rom 3:23)

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b. Salvation is where God removes the characteristic of selfishness from us (Matt 16:24).

●When will we see God?

1. Jn 1:18; Ex 33:20 – no human can see God and I _____
2. 1 Jn 3:2; Heb 12:14 – because God has purified our hearts, we will see Him when Jesus r_____.

Characterized by PeaceM_____ (9)

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

●Why are we peacemakers?

1. We experience peace with God through the Prince of Peace, J_____ who died for us on a cross (Col 1:20)
2. Having peace with God moves us to p_____ peace with others.

●What is peacemaking?

1. Rom 12:18 – doing a_____ we can to be at peace with all people.
2. It is not the result but the p_____ that is important (sometimes peace is unattainable because of the other person).

●What will peacemakers be called?

1. We are already called s_____ of God through faith in Christ (Gal 3:26)
 - a. The term child of God emphasizes being in God's f_____ (Jn 1:12)
 - b. The term son of God emphasizes being an h_____ of God (Gal 4:7)
2. Our sonship has a f_____ aspect (Eph 1:5)
 - a. This is when we actually receive our i_____ from God.
 - b. That inheritance is r_____ in heaven and so is guaranteed (1 Pet 1:4) – we will be called the sons of God.

Conclusion:

- Should we expect “positive things” from imparting mercy, having pure motives, and pursuing peace? Jesus says that we can expect p_____ for practicing righteousness (v. 10)
- Verses 11,12 are specifically addressed to the a_____ whom He puts on the same level as the O.T. prophets. So we must be careful how we apply this – we will get r_____ for our faithfulness in the face of persecution.

True happiness is not an emotion but a state of being. Happy are you!