

FINDING HAPPINESS

HAPPY ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

January 3, 2016

1. Open in prayer:

Father, thank You for a new year. We confess that the start of a new year doesn't bring blessings, You do. Bless us in 2016 with a greater awareness of being indwelt by Jesus through the Holy Spirit's power; Jesus is our happiness. May we grow ever deeper in His love, displaying His kingdom to our world. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

2. Pastor Derwin said, "Happiness is not: wealth, good circumstances, finding the perfect spouse, fame, a perfect body, euphoric feelings, your dream job, or having a normal family."

- a. How has this been true in your own life?
- b. How can we use the failure of these idols to help others come to Jesus?

3. Read Matthew 5:1-12.

- a. Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "Happiness is found in being in a covenant relationship with God and embodying His kingdom." Why is this true, according to Jesus? See Matthew 5:1-12.
- b. In the New Testament, makarismós (blessed) is the blessedness of a person who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit because of faith in Jesus Christ (See Ephesians 1:3). Expound on this Gospel reality.
- c. A blessed (makários) person is the one who is in the world yet independent of the world. Our satisfaction comes from God and not from favorable circumstances. How does this apply to you in your life's circumstances today?

4. Explain Pastor Derwin's statement, "Happy are those who know they need Jesus." (Matthew 5:3)

5. Pastor Derwin said, "Happy are those who help those who are poor in spirit." What are the implications of this for your life?

Soul-tattoo: 1) Stop looking for people, places, and possessions to make you happy. Look to Jesus.
• If time allows, discuss how you plan to do this.

2) Help those in need. How do you plan to help those around you with physical and spiritual needs (Jesus)?

6. Close in prayer.