

FINDING HAPPINESS

HAPPY ARE THOSE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

February 21, 2016

1. Open in prayer.
2. According to the World Happiness Report, America ranks 17 out of 156 countries in the area of happiness. Why is a country like America—which has so much success and leads the world in many sectors—not the happiest country in the world?
 - Pastor Derwin said, “Happiness is not found in people, possessions, or popularity.” How has this statement been true in your life?
3. Discuss Pastor Derwin’s statement, “Jesus says your happiness is about being formed into a people who reflect the Kingdom of God.”
 - The Sermon on the Mount is the outworking of loving God, yourself, and your neighbor. Only the Holy Spirit can form us into Kingdom of God (happy) people.
4. Blessed or “happy ” people, according to Jesus, are:

Humble Dependent people who find salvation and worth in Jesus.	Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3)
Mournful Mourn over personal and corporate sin. Attuned to suffering around you.	Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)
Meek Dependent on Jesus to act and then follow Him.	Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)
Upward, Inward, Outward people (Love) “You will know My disciples because they love one another.”	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. (Matthew 5:6)
Merciful Is holding onto grudges and unforgiveness helping you?	Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (Matthew 5:7)
Forgiven Dazzled by the love of Jesus. You filter life through His grace.	Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8)
Peacemakers Bridge builder	Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9)
Persecuted If you allow the Spirit of God to form this Kingdom of God kind-of-life in you, expect persecution. Those who want to stay in darkness will be repelled by you, but those who want to be in the light will be attracted to you.	Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12)

5. If you choose to allow the Holy Spirit to form you into a Kingdom of God person, you will experience persecution. How do you handle persecution?
6. Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "Happiness is about being transformed into the image of the Son of God for the glory of God." Read 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.
7. Pastor Derwin said, "Be happy, you have a great reward coming!" Read Matthew 5:10-12 and explain what our "great reward" is.

Soul-tattoo: Read and pray through the Sermon on the Mount 3 times a day this week. (Matthew 5:1-12)