

FINDING HAPPINESS

HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO GIVE GOD GLORY

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1. Open in prayer:

"Father, in the Name of Your eternal Son, Jesus the Messiah—who graciously grants us His eternal kind-of-life now, in the present, and through the Spirit's power—we ask you to form us into Kingdom of God people reflected in Matthew 5:1-12. In Jesus' Name, amen."

2. Please read Matthew 5:1-16. Remember, Matthew 5:1-12 is what Upward, Inward, Outward looks like in practice; Kingdom of God people are happy or blessed people. The Church is to grow in embodying the Kingdom of God, which makes us salt and light, which in turn glorifies our Father in heaven.

- a. What are your thoughts about these statements?
- b. Only in trusting God the Holy Spirit to form us into this kind of people can this Gospel reality occur. What has been the difference between you trying to change yourself and the Holy Spirit changing you? (See Colossians 1:28-29)

3. How did Clayton King's sermon impact you?

- a. What did the sermon make you think and feel about God?
- b. What actions did it move you to make in your life?

4. Note: In the 1st Century, Second Temple Jewish context of Jesus, salt had extreme value. (1) For healing and cleansing; (2) for preserving food; (3) for flavoring food; and (4) for sustaining moisture in humans in very dry climates. Salt was a prized possession. It was often used to pay soldiers' wages. Christians are called the "salt of the earth" because of their penetrating and preserving power in a lost world. "You" is PLURAL and emphatic like verse 14. Believers are salt. It is not an option. The only choice is what kind of salt we will be. Salt can become adulterated and useless. Remember, lost people are watching.¹

5. Light in this same context referred to reaching the Gentiles so they could become a part of God's family.

- a. Read Isaiah 49:6; 51:4; 60:3 and Matthew 4:14-16. In the context of Matthew 5:1-16, Jesus was saying that Jews who followed Him would be a light that led the Gentiles to saving faith in Him.
- b. As we, the TC family, grow and mature as happy, kingdom of God reflecting people we preserve the culture and reach people of all ethnicities and socioeconomic classes.

6. Close in prayer, specifically asking God to make us a salt and light church that embodies the happiness of living out Matthew 5:1-12.

¹ Utley, R. J. (2000). The First Christian Primer: Matthew (Vol. Volume 9, p. 39). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International.