

## Be My Attitude

### Beatitudes – Blessed are you – Matthew 5:3-12

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”  
Matthew 5:3-7

“Those who can laugh without cause have either found the true meaning of happiness or have gone stark raving mad.” – Norm Papernick<sup>1</sup>

Happiness is something that many of us seek in life. The world would have you to believe that happiness comes from fame, glory, and power. The world wants you to find happiness in self-gratifying events and activities. Trying to find happiness in the world is like trying to keep water on a hot day. No matter what you have it will eventually dry up and you will be left with nothing.

What are some of the things in which you have tried to find happiness?

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The world cannot develop genuine happiness. It will always fall short, but Jesus, through His sermon, explains what it is to have happiness. The first four beatitudes deal with inner attitudes. As we seek to become poor, mournful, meek, and hungry we will place ourselves in a position to show mercy, be pure, be peacemakers, and endure persecution.

Here is the progress:

- **Spiritual Poverty** – This is where the path starts. Each individual who seeks happiness needs to come to the point of realizing that they are spiritually poor.
- **Mourners** – Once a person realizes they are spiritually poor, then they develop a sorrow over their sin. They realize that their sin is what attacks happiness.
- **Meek** – After a person begins to weep over their own sin, they develop a realization of the depth of God’s love and grace upon their lives. They surrender to be God’s tool, committed to God’s agenda.
- **Hunger for Righteousness** – The reality of who we are (poverty), why we are who we are (sin), and what God has done (meek) drives the individual to hunger and thirst for their God. This hunger comes from a deep desire and need for the food and water that truly satisfies.
- **Merciful** – As a result of seeing God for who He is and realizing who we are, there is a deep desire to show mercy on fellow man because of the plague of sin that affects us all. As we give mercy to others, God gives more to us.
- **Pure in Heart** – Mercy for others because of sin and the reality of the effect of sin continue to drive the believer to God. The believer wants to be cleansed of the plague of sin and filled with His Spirit.
- **Peacemakers** – As the believer becomes pure of heart, he has a desire to see others make peace with God. Hence, peacemakers will be ready always to share the gospel.
- **Persecuted** – Those who seek to share the gospel and help others find peace will undoubtedly be persecuted because of the nature of the gospel. Those that live in unrighteousness do not want to come face to

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/35958.html>

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me."  
Matthew 5:8-11

face with righteousness so they persecute, which only perpetuates their unrighteousness

- **The outcome of this step by step progression is true, life changing joy that God gives.**

Why is it that the world's happiness is easier to reach for than the happiness God supplies?

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You may be thinking right now that true happiness is hard work. Well, you're right. In fact, it is impossible. No matter how hard you try you will never find true happiness. Isn't that encouraging?

Think back to the very first attitude. It is the realization that we are spiritually poor. We cannot find happiness on our own. It will always slip through our fingers. It is only in God and through God that happiness can be found. Somehow each beatitude puts the attention and focus on God, because it is He who deserves all the glory.

- **Spiritual Poverty** – God is the source, I am not.
- **Mourners** – God is the standard, not my own standard of right and wrong.
- **Meek** – God is the center, so I must decrease.
- **Hunger and thirst** – God is the provider, only He can satisfy.
- **Merciful** – God is love, so I show love.
- **Pure of Heart** – God is the Healer, to cleanse my heart.
- **Peacemakers** – God is Peace, so I seek peace.
- **Persecuted** – God is King of Kings, so I will stand for him in the face of persecution.

No matter how you slice it, true happiness is seeking an understanding of who God is and how I relate to God.

This understanding goes against all the world would have us to believe. The world says happiness is fixed on self. In fact, we would be tempted to find happiness in ourselves. It is an attitude of trying to gratify ourselves and make ourselves happy. It is a lost cause. There will never be happiness in making ourselves happy.

No one has said it better than John:

"He must increase, and I must decrease." John 3:30

Lord, Let this be my attitude!

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

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