

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

“ ... I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

Luke 2:10

Sunday, January 8, 2017

People saying Happy New Year

Blessed – fortunate or Happy

8 happy categories – ask, what do they all have in common?

Matthew 5

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said; 3 “Blessed are the poor...in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Jesus is addressing first the myth that money affects happiness)

To be poor in spirit means that no matter how rich or poor you are, you are dependent on God, they live every day as if they are dependent on God.

The moment you transfer your trust to (money, education, skills or talent), you become unhappy.

When you transfer trust from God to you, you become responsible for the outcomes. When your trust is in God, he is responsible.

The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they let God make the best of everything.

Start every day, praying ... God I am dependent on you for

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted

People who understand the fact that death is a natural part of life, they embrace death, they don't try not to think about it.

Fear of death will rob you of the joy in life.

Happy people are prepared for death and don't spend a lot of time worrying about it.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

When you think of characteristics you want in a person, meek never makes the top 5.

“Meekness – a proper evaluation of yourself within the context of God’s plan for you”

Meek people know they are part of the world NOT the center of it.

Not striving to be more than God has made you to be.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

People who are committed to doing the right thing even when it cost them, no guilt, no regret and a clear conscience.

We either hunger and thirst for right things or sin. Sin separates.

Your greatest regret was never for doing the right thing, but doing the wrong thing.

Nobody wishes if they could go back to high school, they would have gotten in more trouble.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Happy are relationally generous; you give people exactly what they DON'T deserve, they are not consumed by paying people back for things they have done to you.

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

False thinking: I have to experience something to understand it.

Being able to see things before they happen when making decisions.

Purity leads to clarity ... We have decisions that we think we are missing out. Pure in heart people SEE like and what God see's.

In our culture this is tough. Nobody points us in this direction.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

God wants to make peace with you so when you make peace with other people, you are like God.

DO you know any happy troublemakers? They target happy people. They want everyone as unhappy as they are.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

These don't seem to go together, Happy and persecuted.

You are going to suffer in this life, for doing the right or wrong thing. One of them will leave you happy, the other will not.

If you suffer for doing the wrong thing, you won't have peace with God OR with YOU.

Choose to pursue righteousness and you can be happy with the outcome.

Common thing in all of these – Happiness is an outcome, from Sowing and Reaping.

Galatians 6:7 A man reaps what he sows. There is a connection between where you are today and what you did in your past, most of my problems today are a result of things I did 5 years ago (to see what your future is going to look like, look at what you're doing today)

The old saying, "They're just sowing their wild oats" ...the problem is the bible tells us they grow!

What God does not say is "unless he asks for forgiveness" or "unless he gets in church and starts praying." People say to me all the time, "Steve, I'm doing my best."

And that's great, but the past five years you didn't do your best, so you're reaping the seeds you have sown in the past.

"But doesn't God love me?" Of course he does. That's why he gave us this principle ahead of time before you were born, this is how the world works...

God has made life very predictable. There aren't any exceptions.

Jesus ends the message with this:

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house: yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." Happy long term...

26 “But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Happy short term...

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