

Pursuit Of Happiness

Sunday AM 07/04/21

Introduction:

Being this is the 4th of July, most of us recognize the title of this lesson being in the Declaration of Independence.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

I) Pursuit of Happiness

A) Pursuit- act of pursuing, an effort to obtain

B) Happiness – prosperity, thriving, well being.

1. There is a “happiness” which is short lived, temporary.
 - a. We obtain something but eventually want something more.
 - b. A job, a house, money, etc.
2. There is a happiness which is long term.
 - a. Which is what true happiness is all about.
 - b. We don't want just to be happy today but tomorrow, and afterward.

C) Views on happiness

1. An illusion, a dream which will never be obtained, man is doomed to be unhappy.

2. Happiness by design is only temporary, therefore, don't worry about long term happiness.

1 Corinthians 15:32 *If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"*

3. Happiness is some how ungodly, Christians are supposed to be downcast and miserable.

Philippians 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

4. Happiness is obtained when one case off the shackles of religion. Sex outside of marriage, drugs, stealing, fraud, etc.

II) Facts About Happiness

A) People want to be happy.

1. When we make decisions, we are doing so thinking it will make us happy.
 - a. The person who commits adultery think it will bring them happiness.

Galatians 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- b. Many of the things in this list is glamorized and sought after.
- c. How many people today are "living together" without being married, going from one partner to another? How many are trying to party themselves to happiness?
- d. Normal people don't make decisions trying to be miserable.

B) Often we don't know what will make us happy.

1. The Bible is full of examples of people seeking happiness only to find something else.
2. Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit.

Genesis 3:5 *"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* **6** *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

- a. Were they happy with their decision?
- b. Was Eve happy with the pain of child birth?

Genesis 3:16 *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."*

- c. Was Adam happy with having to fight the weeds?

Genesis 3:17 *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*

- d. Were they happy with death?

3. Israel wanted a king.

1 Samuel 8:6 *But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD.*

- a. They wanted a king to fight for them and win their battles.

1 Samuel 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, **20** that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

- b. Were they happy with a king? Eventually they started to complain about their kings.
- c. 19 of the kings of Israel were assassinated. .

4. Ammon with Tamar

- a. He desired Tamar and thought forcing himself on her would make him "happy."

2 Samuel 13:10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom. **11** Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

2 Samuel 13:14 However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her. **15** Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!"

- b. Why wasn't Amnon happy? He got what he wanted? What he wanted actually made him angry.

C) They were not following God's word.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

- 1. God wants us to obey Him and that obedience is intended to be for our well-being.

2. Going back to our definition of happiness - Happiness – prosperity, thriving, well being.
 - a. The marriage relationship is one for mankind’s well-being.

Proverbs 5:18 NKJV 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth.
 - b. Adam and Eve living in the Garden of Eden was for their well-being.
 - c. God being Israel’s king was for their well-being.

1 Samuel 8:7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

III) What Will Make Man Happy?

A) Passages where happy is used in relation to man and God.

1. The person who accepts God’s correct is happy.

Job 5:17 "Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.

 - a. In the N.T. we are told to accept God’s discipline.

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
 - b. Much like our trials and hardships which we often don’t like, we are made better by them, for our wellbeing.
2. Those who hope and trust in God are happy.

Psalms 146:5 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God, 6 Who made heaven and earth,

The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever,

- a. Hope is essential our lives, it is the power behind faith. Hope in man will disappointed but hope is God will endure.

Proverbs 16:20 *He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.*

- b. We have many assurances from God but how often do we start doubting His word? I know that is what the Bible says, but....?

B) The Sermon on the Mount

1. ***Blessed are the poor in spirit, Matthew 5.3...theirs is the kingdom of heaven***
2. ***Blessed are those who mourn, Matthew 5.4...they shall be comforted***
3. ***Blessed are the meek, Matthew 5.5 ... they shall inherit the earth***
4. ***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, Matthew 5.6... they shall be filled.***
5. ***Blessed are the merciful, Matthew 5.7... they shall obtain mercy.***
6. ***Blessed are the pure in heart, Matthew 5.8 ... they shall see God.***
7. ***Blessed are the peacemakers, Matthew 5.9 ... they shall be called Sons of God.***
8. ***Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, Matthew 5:10 ... theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

C) The Beatitudes in Revelation

1. ***Revelation 1:3*** *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*
2. ***Revelation 14:13*** *Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'"*

"Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

3. **Revelation 19:9** *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*
4. **Revelation 20:6** *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

Conclusion:

Not all of our blessings, happiness will be immediate, some will and some will not come soon. But they will come and they will be enduring. A Christian lady, the Sunday after I was baptized told me, "That is one decision you will never regret." She was right.