

“Kingdom Blessings=Kingdom Happiness”
Matthew 5:1-12; 6:33-34

1. What is most important to God? _____

- It's our mandate. (Gen. 1:26-27)
- It's Israel's mandate. (Ex. 19:6)
- It's the church's mandate. (1 Pet. 2:9)
- It's the message of Jesus. (Matt. 4:17)
- It's why Jesus died. (Col. 1:13)
- It's the end game (Rev. 12:10)

2. What drives or motivates God? _____

- It's why we were created. (Isaiah 43:6-7)
- It's why He disciplines His people. (Isaiah 48:9-11)
- It's why He chose Israel. (Isaiah 49:3)
- It's why He calls us to worship and do good works.
(1 Chron. 16:24, Matt. 5:16)
- It's why Jesus came. (John 12:27-28)

3. What is most important to you? _____

If someone was sent to observe your life and record how you spend your time, talent, and treasure what would they conclude was most important to you?

It's why Jesus told us to seek first His kingdom instead of your own kingdom (Matt. 6:23)

4. What drives or motivates you? _____

It's the last words Moses speaks to the Israelites. (Deut. 33:29)

It's the theme of the entire Psalter. (Psalm 1)

It's the first words Jesus preached. (Matthew 5:1-12)

The word translated "blessed" in the NT is from the Greek word *Makarios*, which actually means "happy" or "favor from God that leads to happiness". The NASB translators only chose to translate *Makarios* as "happy" once in the NT. Romans 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. **Happy** is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Striving for happiness is not the problem. If you stopped trying to be happy you would cease to be human. It's actually the way God made us. Striving for happiness by setting up our own little kingdom and filling it with temporal things is the problem. **If we strive for HOLINESS, we will find true happiness.**

5. How do we seek first His righteousness?

- Man has always sought to establish his own _____ by doing good works or following some religious legal system.
- But, Jesus said our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. We would have to be _____ to earn our way into the Kingdom of God.
- Only when we hunger and thirst for the righteousness only Jesus can give us by placing our faith in Him as Lord and Savior can we experience Kingdom blessing and happiness.

6. How do we seek first His kingdom?

• The _____ seeks temporal happiness by seeking first our own _____ so that we can maximize our happiness and minimize our suffering. The natural man does not have to discipline himself to do these things. We are well practiced at seeking immediate happiness.

• _____, _____, and _____ result when it our kingdom of happiness is threatened.

• The _____ seeks to glorify God through practicing the _____.

Here is a list of spiritual disciplines. Notice they get harder as the list progresses. **The harder the spiritual discipline, the more spiritual fruit and happiness/blessedness results.**

- Attending church/worshipping with the Saints
- Singing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs
 - Sitting under the preaching of God's Word
 - Practicing stewardship of time, talent, and treasure
 - Studying God's Word
 - Practicing the "one-anothers" in the Bible
 - Confession of sin
 - Prayer and fasting
 - Evangelism (This one seems hard because we can't control who will believe)
 - Discipleship (This one is hard because people don't like to repent and change)

Children's Ministry is the easiest way to obey the Lord in the area of evangelism and discipleship, because children are most receptive to the Gospel and least hostile to change.

- Can you trust God for your happiness? Do you believe that He knows better than you what will make you ultimately happy?
- **Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?**
- If we seek first the glory of God in His Kingdom, we will find blessedness and happiness in Him.
- As the Reformers put it: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."
- Or as John Piper puts it: "The chief end of man is to glorify God BY enjoying Him forever."