



Psalm 1
New International Version

Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,
² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

⁴ Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

(I will only do what makes me happy)

Teach them to live for something greater than themselves.

Story of the rich young ruler

Our hearts are restless...

I want to Impact this world in light of the next.



SERMON NOTES

The Pursuit of Happiness

A good life gets passed on to the grandchildren; ill-gotten wealth ends up with good people. Pr 13:22 (Msg)

Happiness is a Spiritual **CHOICE**

“Blessed is the one who does...”

Happiness is not circumstantial but a spiritual **PURSUIT**

“When the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.” Matt 19:22

Happiness is **ROOTED** in JESUS

Is it based on deeply held **CONVICTIONS**, backed by serious **COMMITMENT**, and demonstrated by **CONDUCT**

“You planted eternity in the human hearts” Eccl 3:11

Living Water – the truth that God’s love and help are in Jesus

Happiness is a **BY-PRODUCT** of your Calling

Calling is living God’s way and joining God’s mission. Calling elevates your life from a series of random events to a purposeful life.

Is it challenging, meaningful, costly, other-oriented?

“Aim for heaven and you will get earth thrown in, Aim for earth and you will get neither.” CS Lewis

But what happens when we live God's way?

He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Galatians 5:22-23 (Msg)

I recently read an article that said something like 92%* of first graders, when asked what they want to be when they grow up, respond with “famous.” They don't necessarily care about how they achieve that fame – whether it's as an actor, the president, a professional athlete ... they just want to be famous. (**I have no idea what the actual percentage was but it was alarming.*)

SACRED JOURNEY

Happiness in Circumstances or Christ?

Everyone wants happiness, but most people seek it in the wrong way. They assume that happiness comes through good circumstances, so they set out to improve their circumstances. If they're single, they seek a spouse and a happy marriage. If they're married, but unhappy, they get a divorce and look for someone else who can make them happier. If they're married and childless, they seek to have children. If they're married with children who are giving them problems, they don't know what to do (since murder is not legal)! If they're poor, they seek to get rich. If they're rich, they discover that money doesn't give them what they're looking for. One wag said, “They say it's better to be poor and happy than rich and miserable. But couldn't something be worked out, such as being moderately wealthy and just a little moody?” (*Reader's Digest*, 9/82.)

Jesus explained how we can find lasting happiness, but in so doing He stood the world's way on its head: Lose your life for His sake and the gospel's and you'll find it. He said, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's shall save it” (Mark 8:34, 35). He made the same point in the Sermon on the Mount, where He contrasted the pagans, who eagerly seek after the material comforts of life, with believers, who are to “seek first His kingdom and righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33).

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? Romans 8:24