

Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!

the PURSUIT of
HAPPINESS

the BEATITUDES of
JESUS

Sunday, January 13, 2019

The Pursuit of Happiness, Part 1
A Study of Matthew 5:3-4

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Austin is crazy for “bumper stickers.” Make a list of bumper stickers you’ve seen.

How are the Beatitudes like bumper stickers? How are they not?

Do you recall from the sermon why we call these 8 statements “The Beatitudes?”

Each week we’ll cover two beatitudes.

**The Meaning of the First Beatitude:
The pursuit of happiness
begins with _____.**

Read Matthew 5:3.

How is being financially poor and being “poor in spirit” similar? How is it different?

Some people are “poor spirited”—they are timid and lack drive. How is that different than being “poor in spirit”?

Is it hard for people to accept their spiritual poverty? Explain.

Explain this “kingdom” that the “poor in spirit” receive. Compare and contrast an earthly kingdom and the heavenly kingdom in terms of . . .

. . . the *privileges* citizens have

. . . the *protections* citizens have

. . . the *responsibilities* citizens have

“THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT CAN
ONLY BE SEEN THROUGH
EYES THAT HAVE CRIED”

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR A. ROMERO

**The Meaning of the Second Beatitude:
The pursuit of happiness
begins with _____.**

Read Matthew 5:4.

How is mourning over earthly loss similar to mourning over sin?

How is it different?

Pastor Tom said we should grieve over two things: the brokenness *within* us and the brokenness *around* us.

The Brokenness Within Us. When we have broken vows, broken relationships, or broken commandments, what are the things people tend to do *instead of* mourning. (First answer: making excuses. Name three or four others.)

Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 and answer the following:

- ❖ What does the Bible mean by “godly sorrow” versus “worldly sorrow”?
- ❖ Why does “godly” sorrow lead to happiness better than “worldly” sorrow?

The Brokenness Around Us. When we see the consequences of sin in our families, our church, our city, and our nation, what are the things some people tend to do *instead of* mourning? (First answer: condemnation. Name three or four others.)

Some of the answers you listed for the question above were probably actions we *should* take to respond to the brokenness around us. (Examples: paying for counseling, passing a law.) The problem is that we often do them without the grieving that Jesus says must come first. Why should grieving over the brokenness come first, even before practical solutions to fixing the brokenness?

When you finally come to grieve over the brokenness *within* and *around*, Jesus says you will be comforted. How have you experienced this?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests