

Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!

the PURSUIT of  
HAPPINESS

the BEATITUDES of  
JESUS

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Discovering the Password for Happiness  
The Pursuit of Happiness, Part 2  
A Study of Matthew 5:5-6

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It's hard to get through contemporary life without passwords. Do you have trouble remembering them?

What tricks do you use to remember passwords?

What are some "passwords" we hope will give us access to happiness? List 3-4 before going to the next question.

## **First Point: Yield to God**

Read Matthew 5:5.

Complete this little proverb: "Meek as a \_\_\_\_\_."

We don't like to be regarded as "meek." Even the modern translation "gentle" might make us uncomfortable. Describe how such a person would be regarded...

...in sports

...in business

...in politics

Read 2 Timothy 2:21. How does this verse help you understand what "meekness" really means?

Pastor Tom compared a "meek" person to a powerful horse broken to bit and saddle. How does this image help you understand what "meekness" really means?

Take a look at the following list and describe how the following things can get us in trouble if we're not yielded to God.

Our ambitions

Our aggressiveness in competition

Our sex drive

Our artistic creativity

Now go through the list again and describe how these things can be honorable and useful once God *harnesses* them.

Have someone read Psalm 37:1-11. Make a list of the phrases from these verses that describe the kind of person who will "inherit the earth."

## **Second Point: Yearn for Godliness**

Read Matthew 5:6.

If you've ever been away from your home or country long enough to miss a certain restaurant or food, describe that.

What would it look like if we were to "hunger and thirst for righteousness" in the same way we hunger for a favorite food?

Make a list of the areas where God wants righteousness. (Example, how we spend money. Now name at least 7 more.) Work through your daily routine from sunrise to sundown to help you with this list.

Pastor Tom mentioned there are two ways to understand “righteousness” in the Bible: God’s work *for* us, and God’s work *in* us. In light of this, answer these questions:

What is God’s work *for* us and what is God’s work *in* us?

In the Trinity, who did God’s work *for* us? (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.) Who does God’s work *in* us? (See Ephesians 3:16.)

If we only focus on God’s work *for* us and not God’s work *in* us, what happens?

If we only focus on God’s work *in* us and not God’s work *for* us, what happens?

There seems to be an order to the eight Beatitudes. Last week we looked at the first two (verses 3-4), and today we looked at the next two (verses 5-6). Convert all four into “steps to happiness” and put them in your own words:

Step 1 (verse 3):

Step 2 (verse 4):

Step 3 (verse 5):

Step 4 (verse 6):



Close with praise reports and prayer requests