

Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!

the PURSUIT of  
HAPPINESS

the BEATITUDES of  
JESUS

Sunday, February 3, 2019

The Pursuit of Happiness, Part 4  
A Study of Matthew 5:9-12

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Tell about an experience being locked out of a room because your key didn't work. (Or your child got locked in a room and you didn't have a key!)

What are some things people claim are "keys to happiness" but in the end they don't give you access to real or lasting happiness?

The eight "beatitudes" that begin the Sermon on the Mount are Jesus's keys to deep happiness. In the past three weeks, we've looked at six of the beatitudes. We're looking at the last two today.

## **First Point:** **Be Willing to *Undertake* Peace Making**

Read Matthew 5:9.

Look at these two statements and answer the following questions: "Blessed are the peaceful" and "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Which statement is *active* and which statement is *passive*?

Which statement tells us what we are to *be* and which one tells us what we are to *do*?

Why is it inadequate to interpret Christ's call to be a "peacemaker" as simply a call to be "peaceful"?

Read Philippians 4:2-3. (Their names are pronounced “Eu-OH-dee-ah” and “SIN-teh-kay”.) Then answer the following:

In verse 2, Paul called for the two ladies to mend their differences. Imagine yourself as one of these two believers. Give some examples of ways you have resolved differences you’ve had with others.

In verse 3, Paul called for a third party (his “true companion” or “loyal yokefellow”) to help these ladies mend things. Imagine yourself as this particular believer. Make a list of things *you* can do to make peace between believers who disagree.

## **Second Point: Be Ready to *Undergo* Opposition**

Read Matthew 5:10-12.

While the Seventh Beatitude (verse 9) is about relationships *inside* the church, the Eighth Beatitude (verse 10) is about relationships *outside* the church. Answer the following questions:

How can conflict *inside* the church make us unprepared to face conflict *outside* the church?

How does conflict *outside* the church often motivate believers to unite *inside* the church?

Read Matthew 5:16 and 2 Timothy 3:12 and answer:

When people see our good works, which verse says they will glorify God and which verse says they will persecute us?

How can both be true?

What are some ways our culture has approved of Christians? (First example: They like Mobile Loaves and Fishes.) Name some others.

What are some ways our culture has disapproved of Christians? (First example: They don't like the Christian sexual ethic.) Name some others.

Read Matthew 5:11-12. Circle "because of me" in verse 11. If any other great man had said we should count it an honor to suffer for his sake, we would have thought him arrogant or crazy.

What gives Jesus the right to say this to his followers?

How can accepting his right to say this make all the difference in enduring opposition?

How is the phrase "because of me" the only way to live *all* the beatitudes?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests