



Empowering People to Change the World

## **The Core Values of Happiness Part 3**

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***God can move mountains in my life  
I will build up my faith with God's Holy Word  
I will come alive in the power of the Holy Spirit With Jesus, nothing  
will be impossible***

If you are ever out camping along the shores of a lake or pond in the Colorado mountains, you will often observe the sound and beauty of a Red-winged Black Bird. And you know it is a Red-winged Black Bird because you know the features of a Red-winged Black Bird—the red patch on the wing. If you are in the city here and you hear the coo sound and look up on a telephone wire you see the small head, pointed bill, rounded body, long wings, and tail feathers of a dove. Those are the features of a Mourning Dove!

**What are the features of a Jesus disciple? How does one identify a truly born again, Word rooted, Spirit alive follower of the King and the Kingdom of God?**

- Is it simply by what we believe?

- o Belief is very important.

- o In **Romans 10:9-10**, Paul writes, <sup>9</sup>***“if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”***

- o Belief is important. Jesus said, ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”***(John 3:16)

- o Belief certainly is vital in first connecting with God and experiencing His forgiveness and power in our lives.

- o What we believe is very important. But even Satan and demons believe. **James 2:19 *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!***

- Is it our works? What we do that sets us apart.

- o Works are important.

- o James says that without works our faith is dead.

o But then Jesus says in **Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup>***“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter***

***the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*** <sup>22</sup> ***Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’*** <sup>23</sup> ***And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’***

o You could be casting out demons, doing great miracles for the Kingdom of God, and not really have a personal saving relationship with Christ!

o So, it is not just what we believe or our works alone that are key features of the Christian, of the Jesus disciple.

- What are the key features of a Jesus follower? are the key features of a Jesus follower? I would propose that Beatitudes give us the most important values, the most important features of one who is seeking the Kingdom of God for their lives.

- Jesus is not giving us a systematic theology but a heart check. He is speaking of the features, the values of a wholehearted disciple.

**Jesus desires a happy people, a joyful people. People full of “righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.”**

- Jesus is outlining the way of joy right here at the beginning of His ministry.
- They are called the “Be—Attitudes” because they are about “being” a Jesus follower.
- Jesus is showing us *how* to get heaven to earth.

**The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus giving us His “Kingdom Manifesto.”**

## **8 Values/Features of a Citizen of the Kingdom**

These sayings of Jesus are in an important order. They are like ever higher rings in a row. Have you ever watched American Ninja Warrior, with its ever progressively difficult obstacle course. The Beatitudes are like the rings these men and women must grasp, with each ring being a little higher. They jump out and grab the first ring and the momentum swings you to the next ring.

You have to start with the first Beatitude and progress to the next one. You might look at the last one and say “No way, I can’t do that!” Of course, you have to begin at the beginning and gain spiritual momentum.

### **Matthew 5:3**

***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Kingdom Value: “poor in spirit” Need for God**

- This is the door into the Kingdom. This is the keynote of the Kingdom—you are blessed if you know you need God. It all starts here. If you do not get this, forget the rest!!
- It strikes at the heart of self-sufficiency, the ego, the American Way.
- Be poor enough in your spirit, to receive Jesus into your life, and everything from heaven can be yours!
- Let’s be clear, we are not talking about not having self-confidence. If you are a top executive at your firm; star athlete on your athletic team, I’m not saying you meet with your boss or your coach and say, “Sir, I’m not actually very good and you should hire someone else for this job...” This is about being “poor in spirit” with God. It is acknowledging your need for God—for His power, His love, His forgiveness—because you cannot do it.
- Poor in your spirit leads to being rich in God, in the Holy Spirit. You cannot experience the power of the Spirit until you are poor in your own spirit.

## **Matthew 5:4**

***Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.***

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Kingdom Value: Sorrow bearing**

- When you open up your spirit to Christ, He comes in and you start to change. You begin to have compassion for those who do not have the Kingdom of God and it brings sorrow, mourning.
- It means you care; you care about the things God cares about— people, our nation, our city, the Church and you begin to realize most people do not have the Kingdom.

Most people have not experienced the Kingdom, and God gives you this love for people.

You mourn for what God mourns for—you are no longer a part of the values, culture, and outlook of this world—you hurt in your heart for the caricature of life, the shell of a life, that most people are living.

## **Matthew 5:5**

***Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.***

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Kingdom Value: Renouncing All Rights**

- Christ described Himself as “meek”. You are becoming Christ-like. When Christ is filling you up, when Christ is giving you a new love for people and you mourn for them, you will see your own rights differently.
- We start to pray more, “God what are you calling me to do? I only want your will be done.”
- When you give up all your rights, you get the whole earth! When the world strips you of what you felt was yours, there is a time to surrender. You walk away and do not fight.

- What God gives He can also take away. It is all His. We are His bondservants.

### **Matthew 5:6**

***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.***

### **4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom Value: Passionate for a Right Relationship with God and People**

- When Mary heard Rachel's greeting and John leaped in her womb, she proclaimed, "He has filled the hungry with good things."
- Not only does a Kingdom of God disciple renounce his or her rights, but he also renounces his own righteousness.
- You can have as much of God as you desire! We are supposed to stay hungry! Following Jesus is interesting because the ways of the Kingdom are counterintuitive: only in the Kingdom of God is it true that the more you eat, the hungrier you are. And the less you eat, the less hunger you have.
- Jesus said, ***"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*** (John 7:37-38)
- Paul understood this—the "**Philippians 3** God Chaser." Paul was always hungering and thirsting for more.  
<sup>12</sup> ***Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.!***

- Stay hungry! Stay focused on Christ! God will fill you up.
- **Matthew 5:7**

***Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.***

### **5<sup>th</sup> Kingdom Value: “the merciful” Compassion**

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer said of this verse, “As if their own needs and their own distress are not enough, they take upon themselves the distress and humiliation and sin of others. They have an irresistible love for the down-trodden, the sick, the wretched, the wronged, the outcast and all who are tortured with anxiety. They go out and seek all who are enmeshed in the toils of sin and guilt.”
- The compassionate, the merciful are like Jesus, often found with the sinners, the hurting, the unchurched, the hospitals, loving people, praying and ministering to the needy.
- They show mercy and they get mercy. The tender hearted get mercy.
- It was said of Jesus, He was a friend to the prostitutes, the sinners, the broken, the hurting. “One who is forgiven much, loves much.” As they give away compassion—united in pain, feeling others pain, God will grant them more of His compassion.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Kingdom Value: “Pure in Heart” Wholehearted**

- Living out the Great Commandment: “love God with ALL of your heart.”
- Only those who have surrendered their lives completely to Christ.
- Wholehearted! They shall see God. God reveals himself to the wholehearted.

- When God was grieved over King Saul, He said to Samuel the prophet concerning David, ***“Now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people.” (1 Samuel 13:14)***

- o When we are wholehearted, we are sharing our heart with other bloodstained allies. Only those who are keeping short accounts with God and people—seeking God confessing sin and staying in that pure place.

- o “they will see God” God gives vision to such persons! God reveals Himself to those with an undivided heart.

## **Psalm 24**

***<sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. <sup>2</sup> For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters. <sup>3</sup> Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. <sup>5</sup> He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. <sup>6</sup> This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. Selah <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah***

**Vs. 3-4** Who can approach God? Who can come into intimacy with Him? This is not saying that outward perfectionism is needed for salvation, but rather the external and internal, working together, must be turned in God's direction rather than toward another source—an idol.

**Vs. 5-6** Blessings will be poured out on a person with pure heart. Righteousness from God will be given to such a person. This is a generation who will, like Jacob, seek God's presence!



**Vs. 7-10**

- Rely on Christ for everything!! They shall see God because they are walking in forgiveness and joy.
- This is not about outward purity—good morals, being good, living a virtuous life—as good as that is, but rather, it is about inward heart purity—motives and passion.
- The King of Glory comes into everything you do.