

January 29th, 2017

"True Happiness"

Matthew 5:3-12

The Beatitudes are eight blessings recounted in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. The term beatitude comes from the Latin noun beatitudo which means "happiness".

In the biblical context blessedness describes happiness that comes from a right relationship with _____ as opposed to a more material understanding of good fortune or emotional bliss. This kind of happiness is supreme.

Paradox of Happiness

(Mark 8:35) If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.

Rene Breuel, "Happiness comes as the consequence of an outward facing posture. Only when we transcend the prisons of self can we enlarge our hearts to savor the full breadth of life's delights."

We are not blessed because of what we have, but because of _____ we have Jesus.

JESUS HIMSELF is the greatest message and the greatest revelation.

(Ephesians 1:5) God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to **himself** through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Blessedness should not be seen as a reward for religious accomplishments, but as an act of God's _____ in believers' lives. Rather than congratulating them on spiritual or moral achievements, the beatitude underscores the fact that sinners stand within a forgiving relationship made possible by Christ's atonement.

Have you really experienced a divine relationship with Himself/Jesus who is the source of true happiness?