

The First Step To Happiness

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Key Passage:

Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1. The popular idea of happiness: _____

[See: Eccl. 2:1-26]

Eccl. 2:1 (TEV) (Solomon)

"I decided to enjoy myself and find out what happiness is ..."

Dead Ends:

* Accumulating: _____ (vs. 7-8).

Ecclesiastes 2:7-8 (TEV)

I bought many slaves, and there were slaves born in my household. I owned more livestock than anyone else who had ever lived in Jerusalem. ⁸ I also piled up silver and gold from the royal treasuries of the lands I ruled. Men and women sang to entertain me, and I had all the women a man could want

* Experiencing: _____ (vs. 3, 10).

Ecclesiastes 2:3 (TEV)

Driven on by my desire for wisdom, I decided to cheer myself up with wine and have a good time. I thought that this might be the best way people can spend their short lives on earth.

* Achieving: _____ (vs.4-6, 9).

Ecclesiastes 2:4-6 (TEV)

I accomplished great things. I built myself houses and planted vineyards. ⁵ I planted gardens and orchards, with all kinds of fruit trees in them; ⁶ I dug ponds to irrigate them.

Ecclesiastes 2:9 (TEV)

Yes, I was great, greater than anyone else who had ever lived in Jerusalem, and my wisdom never failed me.

[See also: Eccl. 2:17 (TEV)]

2. God's way to happiness: _____

[See: Matt. 5:3-12]

"BLESSED" means: " _____ ".

"My happiness is not determined by what's happening _____ me
but rather what's happening _____ me!"

3. Jesus Taught The first step to happiness: _____

Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

How Humility Increases My Happiness:

* Being Humble Reduces: _____.

* Being Humble improves: _____.

* Being Humble releases: _____.

James 4:6 (LB)

"God gives strength to the humble, but sets himself against the proud."

Matt. 5:3 (Ph)

"Happy are those who know their need for God, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs!"

John 13:17 (GN)

"Now that you know the truth, how happy you will be if you put it into

ANSWER KEY:

Having the Right Circumstances; Things; Pleasure; Success; Having the Right Attitude; Happy; Around, In; Is to be Humble; Stress; Relationships; God's Power