

FLIPPED.

DEVOTIONAL

The Flipside of Unhappiness | Matthew 5:1-13

By Darren Holt, Fort Worth and North Trinity Area Pastor

Everyone is searching for happiness. Though you and I may not admit it, our first response is often to seek happiness in a job, hobby, relationship, destination, meal, accomplishment or personal comfort. To be sure, none of us feel happy writing a check for an unscheduled AC replacement, saying goodbye to a loved one for the last time, missing two meals in a row, or facing ridicule from coworkers when we take a stand against the flesh.

So, what in the world is Jesus talking about in the Beatitudes when He states “blessed” are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst or those who are meek?

The answer is Christ. We don’t read the Beatitudes [Matthew 5:3-13] to unlock the secrets to God’s hidden happiness. Truth is, Christ’s followers are *already* blessed, even if you and I don’t feel all the effects all the time. The simple truth of the Beatitudes is that Christ is enough. The flipside to unhappiness is contentment in Christ alone.

The trouble is that we don’t always believe that Christ alone is enough to satisfy. We want Christ as long as He doesn’t get in the way with us getting whatever *else* we want. And so, we continue to accumulate more stuff, attend more parties and add more things to our calendar searching for what we already possess.

Those who have placed their faith in Christ *are* blessed—blessed with the Holy Spirit that lives within us. The spiritual life is about “getting used to” the life He has already started. It’s learning to live the dress rehearsal for the coming Kingdom.

Challenge for the week: Ask the Holy Spirit (our Helper), to make you aware of ways to be meek, merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers this week. Ask Him to make you aware and help you agree to follow regardless of where you fear it may lead. With His help, He can flip your unhappiness upside down. Remember you are blessed.

Darren Holt has served at Pantego Bible Church since 2009. He is the Area Pastor to Fort Worth and North Trinity communities. Darren graduated in 2005 from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Masters in Biblical Studies degree. He served at Irving Bible Church, was a Director at Pine Cove Christian Camps, and served as a missionary in Latin America. He and Julie married in 1998 and have three kids—Max, Annabelle, and Simon.