

DID GOD REALLY SAY THAT?



SERMON OUTLINES

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Part #5 – Fact or Fiction: God Just Wants Me to Be Happy

Luke 6:20-23

Series Summary

The phrase "The Bible says..." has been used many times over the years to promote or teach subjects that sounded Biblical but are far from accurate. This series will confront some of the myths that our culture has become convinced are true. Our goal is to arm you with the Truth of God's Word and tackle common myths about God and His Word such as (1) All roads lead to heaven, (2) God helps those who help themselves, (3) God simply wants you to be happy, and much more.

Main Passage

Luke 6:20-23 – ²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Big Idea – Lasting Happiness is not Found Without Acquiring the Joy of the Lord

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, British philosopher C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) observed that it is a futile exercise to seek happiness apart from God. Man has been “designed” to find his purpose, indeed his happiness, only in his Creator. In fact, Lewis insists, “God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.” (54). We were made to glorify God (Isaiah 43:7), and apart from that thrilling enterprise, there is no real contentment in human existence.

Four Realities Regarding Happiness

Reality #1 – Joy is Discovered in Obedience and Trusting the Lord

Luke 6:20 – ²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

- **Key Point** – The first reality that we examine is observed in verse 20. It is within this verse that we study the joy that comes from trusting and obeying the Lord and His Word. You will always find more joy in humble, loving obedience than living a life of quiet defiance.

Reality #2 – Joy is the Prime Product of Holiness

Luke 6:21a – ²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

- **Key Point** – The second reality that we examine is observed in verse 21. It is within this verse that we discover that joy is the prime product of holiness not the by-product of going through the motions of shallow faithfulness.

Reality #3 – Joy Sustains You in Times of Sorrow

Luke 6:21b – “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

- **Key Point** – The third reality that we examine is observed in verse 21 as we recognize the importance of joy in sustaining us during times of sorrow. This seems like a paradox, finding joy in the midst of sorrow. The truth is that the joy of the Lord sustains us in the midst of sorrow by reminding us of the eternal goal that we strive to obtain through Christ.

Reality #4 – Joy Provides the Comfort of Certain Hope on the Horizon

Luke 6:22-23 – ²²“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!
²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets

- **Key Point** – The final reality that we examine is observed in verses 22-23. It is critical that we understand that the joy of Lord points us in the direction of eternal hope as found in being united with Christ for eternity.

Memory Verse

Psalm 32:11 (ESV) – Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Challenge:

Remind yourself that your responsibility, before the Lord, is to apply the truths you have discovered in the Word of God. As you reflect on this message, help others discover more about Jesus this week by...

- Inviting others to a Sunday Morning Service
- Asking others how you could pray for them