

God Wants Me To Be Happy

1 Kings 2:1-4

“Keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies...that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.” 1 Kings 2:3

Main Point: Living life God’s way, not your way, will bring true happiness

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

What does it take to make you happy? What are some things that make people unhappy?

Would you say the basic goal of life for many people is to be happy? Why or why not? Is that a bad thing?

“Happy” by Pharrell Williams was, by far, the most popular song of 2014. Spending a total of 22 weeks on the Billboard top 10 with 10 consecutive weeks at number one, and being downloaded more than 6.5 million times, it was hard to go to a public place without hearing Pharrell asking you to “clap along.” What was so resonant about this simple song? Could it be because at the core of who we are, all people want to know how to be happy? As Christians we are equipped to help find the only thing that will give people lasting happiness. True happiness can only be found in relationship with God.

God is not against happiness, but it shouldn’t be our only pursuit in life. God truly desires for us to be:

1) **STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. Read 1 Kings 2:1-2.**

David told Solomon to “be strong and show yourself a man.” What experiences in David’s life could he draw from to know this path would lead to God’s blessing?

Where do you need to stand firm in your faith today? What areas of your life are you struggling to uphold God’s “commandments, his rules, and his testimonies?”

What was Paul’s charge to the Corinthians in **1 Cor. 15:56-58**? What does he says gives us the ability to follow through with these instructions? Where do you need victory in your life right now?

It takes courage to place your feelings and desires underneath what God desires. How can you choose God’s truth for your life over what you want this want?

2) **OBEDIENT. Read 1 Kings 2:3.**

Thinking back to your childhood, how did obedience relate to happiness? When you were disobedient, how did it affect your day?

We can say we serve God all we want, but the actions in our life are the proof. **Read 1 Samuel 15:22.** What is more important to God? Why?

Read **Psalm 1:1-6.** What is the first word of the book of Psalms? How does it say we achieve this kind of life? (v.1-2) What are the benefits? (v.3)

3) **SUCCESSFUL. Read 1 Kings 2:3-4.**

Does it surprise you that God desires for us to be successful? How is God's definition of success different from ours and the world's?

The Lord desires for you to have joy. He desires peace in your life. It's becoming more evident that those who live for themselves are lacking peace and joy. How have you seen this at work in your life?

Those who follow Jesus have the greatest hope in life. **Read John 10:10 and Romans 8:28.** How has following Christ in your life led to success, joy, and peace?

Apply It:

God wants you to be successful, and yes, happy in life, but that will require you to be obedient to Him and his calling on your life. In what ways do you need to die to your old self today? Where do you need to stand firm against the world in your relationship to Him? Call on Him today to bring you life!

Pray:

Jesus we choose you today. We no longer want to live for ourselves, but for you, and you alone. May you be the delight of our heart and all that satisfies our souls each day. Help us to seek your kingdom above the thrones of this world and serve you all of our days. Reveal to us true success in your eyes and drive us from the temptations of the broad road.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Nov 29th - Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

Dec. 3rd - VillageKids Happy Birthday Jesus

Dec. 10th - A Village Christmas