

“How To Live Happily Ever After” Matthew 5:1-12

The word “BEATITUDE” means blessedness. The word translated “blessed” in each of these NINE (9) beatitudes is a simple word meaning HAPPY or FORTUNATE. Thus, Jesus gives us the prescription for LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER. He gives CONDITIONS and PROMISES from which we may draw key principles that will, in turn, give us happiness. (HOW TO HAVE A BLESSED ATTITUDE...) - and LIVE A GODLY, CONTENTED LIFE!

- I. Happiness comes as we DENY THE SUFFICIENCY OF SELF.
(v.3 “Blessed are the POOR IN SPIRIT...literally, spiritually destitute”)
A. John 15:5b B. II Corinthians 3:5
- II. Happiness comes as we DEPLORE THE SINFULNESS OF LIFE.
(v.4 “Blessed are those who MOURN...literally to experience deep, deep agonizing grief.”
- grieve over our sin)
A. Romans 7:18 B. II Corinthians 7:9-10
- III. Happiness comes as we DEVELOP A SPIRIT OF SUBMISSION.
(v.5 “Blessed are the GENTLE...literally the humble attitude which expresses itself in a patient submissiveness to offense, free from malice and desire for revenge.”)
• We can’t be happy when we’re always trying to get even with someone.
A. Psalm 37:11 B. I Peter 5:5
- IV. Happiness comes as we DESIRE A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. (v.6 “Blessed are those who HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS...literally “an intense hunger or appetite”)
• NO HUNGER...NO HOLINESS...NO HOLINESS...NO HAPPINESS
A. Psalm 42:1-2 B. John 7:37b-38
- V. Happiness comes as we DISPLAY AN ATTITUDE OF MERCY. (v.7 “Blessed are the MERCIFUL...literally “to have deep feelings of sympathy for another.”)
• (SHOW MERCY...NOT JUDGMENT)
A. Proverbs 21:13 B. James 2:13
- VI. Happiness comes as we DETERMINE TO HAVE A SINGLENESS OF HEART. (v.8 “Blessed are the PURE IN HEART...” the heart being “the center of the inner life of the person where all the spiritual forces and functions have their origin.”)
• WITHOUT A PURE HEART...NO POSSIBILITY OF HAPPINESS.
A. II CHRONICLES 16:9 B. Psalm 24:4a, 5
- VII. Happiness comes as we DEFEND A SPIRIT OF HARMONY.
(v.9 “Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS...” i.e. “those who call for and contribute to peace among the brethren.”)
• PROTECT HARMONY...EXPERIENCE HAPPINESS
A. Psalm 34:13-14 B. Romans 12:18; 14:19
- VIII. Happiness comes as we DEMONSTRATE A WILLINGNESS TO FACE PERSECUTION (vv.10-12).
• NO CROSS...NO CROWN
A. Hebrews 11:24a, 26 B. I Peter 4:14, 16

These, then, are some principles which will help us live happily ever after. Since none of these principles refer to what we may call natural tendencies we must give ourselves over to the Lord Jesus and allow His Holy Spirit to control our lives.