

Hello Friends, yesterday, I was out in the garden, and as I drank my mug of tea, a bee was doing its rounds, of the flowering plant next to me. As many of you know, I am no gardener, so flowering plant, is as descriptive as I can be, in this matter. But BUT - I wonder, have you ever watched, a bee buzzing, around a flower, in a garden ? Well I did, perhaps for the first time, and what I noticed, was this, the bee, was not worried, about a thing, in the world. He seemed, to have no cares, no concerns, for he was, too busy, enjoying, all of the beautiful flowers, that God, has provided for him. He was as busy, and as happy, as a bee can be.

Now, if I were to ask you, to tell me, what makes you happy, what would your, answer be ? **Think for a moment.....**

Now perhaps, our answers, may have changed, in recent days, and again our answers, may be something, like this?

Happiness is having a bigger, newer home, car...

Happiness is a holiday...Happiness is winning the lottery...

Happiness is being with my family....

Happiness is being well ??

Yes Friends, Happiness, is a common desire. Yet, so few people, seem, to have it; and so, we put it, in the same category, as four-leaf clovers, and the pot of gold, at the end of the rainbow – as the elusive, the unattainable.

Now, if happiness, is linked with power, not everyone, can have it.

If happiness, is linked with prosperity, it seems, you can never, have enough. And if happiness, is linked with popularity, well not everyone, can have that either ...

And so the question, I want to ask today, is this, Does God, want us, to be Happy, and How ?

My Friends, for some reason, or other, many people, have decided, that God, does not want us, to be happy, you see, they look at the Bible, and all they can see, is the negative. They emphasize, the prohibitions, the curses, and the judgments, and this leave people, with the impression that God, is some sort of “**cosmic killjoy**”, who spends His time, trying to think up, new ways, to make people, more and more miserable.

But, Jesus, painted a very different picture, for He showed people, a God, who wanted them, **to be happy – who wanted, to fill their life, with satisfaction, contentment, and delight.** G. Campbell Morgan, wrote that, **blessed**, is a word, “**full of sunshine, thrilling with music, brimming over with just what man is seeking....**”

Now, we all, WE ALL, want to be happy, don't we ? And so I wonder, would it surprise you, to know, that God wants you, to be happy ? Well, Well, I believe He does, but you might be surprised, to find out, that what Jesus said, about happiness, is quite different, from what, you and I, might expect. For most people, even today, still think, that to be happy, means having, a lot of money, a big house, fancy car, etc etc. **But that isn't, that isn't, what Jesus said.**

For one day, Jesus went up, onto the side of a mountain. He sat down, gathered his disciples, around him, and began, to teach them, about happiness. We know these words, as the Beatitudes, in Matthew Chapter Five. And I'd like to share, some of those words, in a modern translation, to help us understand, what he taught.

For He said things like:

Be happy with what you have, because then, you will find, that your heavenly Father, provides everything, that you need.

Be happy when you are caring, for others, because it is in caring, for others, that you will find, that you have a heavenly Father, who cares for you.

Be happy when your heart, is right with God, because it is then, that you will see, that God, is at work, in the world around you.

Be happy when you help others, to get along peacefully, with one another, because it is then, that you will know, the peace, that comes, from being a part, of the family of God.

To Conclude : My Friends, happiness, is not a feeling, that is brought about, by the things, **we have**, or things, **that happen to us**. Instead, it is an attitude, **that we have**, because of what **we have, and know, in our hearts**. And as followers, of Christ, that is the knowledge, of a God, who loves us, fully, unconditionally, completely, in every way. And who showed us, that love, in the life and teaching, of His Son Jesus.

So perhaps, just perhaps, remembering, Jesus' words, of the, **BEE-Attitudes**, we need to be, like the bee, buzzing happily, through life, because of what, God, has, **HAS done, for us**. His Love. His provision, His Care. For in that knowledge, we know, **WE KNOW, true happiness**.

Finally : In the words of Ken Dodd :

A wise old man, told me one time, Happiness, is a frame of mind
When you go, to measuring, my success
Don't count, my money, count happiness

Happiness, happiness, the greatest gift, that I possess
I thank the Lord, that I've been blessed
With more than my share of happiness

Friends, perhaps, you'd like to look up, Ken Dodd's song, and listen to the words, for yourselves.

Well, Thank You for listening. Hope to see again, on Sunday,
But for now, may the blessing and peace of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, and those you love,
this day and always Amen.