

Aveleigh's 2017 THE HAPPINESS PROJECT (2)

Sunday September 17, 2017

Sermon: HOW TO BE HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT

TEXT: Matthew 5: 10-11 p. 1039 & PHILIPPIANS 1:12-30p.1259

"WHATEVER HAPPENS, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News of Christ!"
Phil. 1:27 (NIV)

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I CAN BE HAPPY IF I...

1. LOOK AT EVERY PROBLEM FROM GOD'S VIEWPOINT.

(VS. 12-14) *"I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that EVERYTHING that has happened to me has helped to spread the Good News."* Phil. 1:12 (NLT)

4,380 guards

ANYTIME I FACE PROBLEMS IN FAITH...

- **IT'S A WITNESS TO UNBELIEVERS**

"For everyone here, including all the soldiers in the palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ." Phil. 1:13 (NLT)

- **IT'S AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO BELIEVERS.**

"And because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold in telling others about Christ." Phil. 1:14 (NLT)

2. NEVER LET OTHERS CONTROL MY ATTITUDE. (VS. 15-18)

Critics, Comrades, Competitors, & Conspirators: KILL - JOYS

"It's true that some preach Christ because they are jealous and quarrelsome.

Others preach from genuine good will. These do so out of love, and they know God's given me the work of defending the gospel.

Others preach Christ insincerely from a spirit of selfish ambition.

Others just want to stir up more trouble for me, and add to my pain while I am in prison." Phil. 1:15-17 (TEV)

Happiness Hint – I don't need other people's approval to be happy.

PAUL'S EXAMPLE:

*“But it doesn't really matter! The **IMPORTANT THING** is that in every way, whether for right or wrong reasons, the message of Christ is being shared! So I am happy, and I will continue to be happy!” Phil. 1:18 (NCV)*

“Be fearless, no matter who opposes you. It will be a sign to them of their downfall, that God is with you, and that he will save you.” Phil. 1:28 (NIV/LB)

“For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this fight together. You have seen me suffer for him in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of a great struggle.” Phil. 1:29-30 (NLT)

3 ALWAYS TRUST GOD TO WORK THINGS OUT.

(VS. 19-20) *I will continue to rejoice, for I know that as you pray for me and as the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, all that's happened will all turn out for my deliverance.” Phil. 1:19 (NLT)*

“It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage, now as always, Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death!” Phil. 1:20 (ESV)

4 STAY FOCUSED ON GOD'S PLAN, NOT MY PROBLEM. (VS. 21-25)

“If by continuing to live I can do more worthwhile work for Christ, then I am not sure which I should choose. I'm pulled in two directions! I want very much to leave this life and be with Christ, which is a far better thing; BUT for your sake it is much more important that I remain alive. I am sure of this, so I know that I will stay on with you all, so I can add to your progress and joy in the faith.” Phil. 1:22-25 (TEV)

CONCLUSION, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain!” Phil. 1:21 (NIV)
How YOU fill in the blank will determine your happiness:

FOR ME TO LIVE IS _____

Prayer Dear Jesus, You know that I often allow the killjoys of pain and problems and pressures and picky people to rob my happiness. Help me to look at every problem in my life from your viewpoint and use the rest of my life to serve you by serving others. I am ready for happier days. In your name I pray. Amen.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, be not far from us,

People: For we are your children.

Leader: O God, help us to believe,

People: For in Christ we would live abundantly.

Leader: O God, we search for you and would worship you,

People: For in you we live and move and discover HAPPINESS..

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear Jesus, you know that I often let circumstances determine my happiness. You know that I often allow the killjoys of pain and problems and pressures and picky people to rob my happiness. Help me to look at every problem in my life from your viewpoint. I want to handle problems in a way that is a witness to nonbelievers and an encouragement to believers. Help me to remember that what others say and do does not control my happiness unless I allow it. And as for the things that happen that I don't understand or can't figure out, I want to trust you to work it all out for good. That all may know Your spiritual gift of Joy and be happy. AMEN.