

Happiness is a choice



We are from our first breath of air wired for the pursuit of happiness, our soul yearns for happiness.

In the Gospel of Matthew we have in chapter 5 the so called "Sermon on the Mount" and in the "Beatitudes" we read in 5:5. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

This is one of the most misunderstood verses in the "Sermon on the Mount" simply because by our modern minds and language interpretation, we understand this to mean that "meek" equals "weak" and "timid" and a person that is easy to pick on and that other people run over that person... Yet this is clearly not what Jesus had in mind with the word "meek".

To Jesus "meek" meant teachable. In the Epistle of James, which was written by Jesus brother who was the first Bishop of the Jerusalem church and a leader after Jesus crucifixion. We read in James 1:21. "...receive with meekness the engrafted word..."

The "word" here refers to the knowledge and wisdom taught by Jesus and later by the Apostles. Thus "meek" means to be teachable... or in modern terms "open minded".

Now let us read Matthew 5:5 again with our new understanding "Blessed are the "open minded" (meek): for they shall inherit the earth."

Now, there are likely some who will object to my interchanging of a word in the Bible, to those I will simply say; "Blessed are the meek"... now if I am wrong and meek really means weak or timid... then why are you objecting? Should you not rather be "meek"? ☺

Fortunately Jesus did indeed mean "open minded" and not "weak" or "timid" and thus everyone is entitled to voice their opinion... all I ask is that they consider the teachings of James and remain teachable or "open minded".

The second part of Matthew 5:5 actually proves my point, because it states that the "open minded" (meek) shall "inherit the earth". Now if you are weak and timid you will hardly inherit the earth as others will walk all over you and take it from you.

Now some will argue that Jesus was here referring to an inheritance after his "second coming" but such an opinion does not fit into the topic of the Sermon on the Mount; for it is entirely concerned with how to act in the physical life of the present.

However, if you remain teachable or open minded in all aspects of life, be it personal, professional or spiritual, you will indeed inherit the world. Because those who listen and observe with an open mind and remain teachable throughout life will indeed be at an enormous advantage. They will stand out in the workplace, they will become leaders, and they will be flexible in their personal life and accept compromise and change as key factors in life.

Meekness, which we now know is the same as opening yourself up to the "word" by being teachable, will produce knowledge, which in turn will make you "hunger and thirst" for more

knowledge. This, funny enough is exactly what Jesus says in the next verse. For in Matthew 5:6 we read: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

So Jesus asks you to be "open minded" so you may inherit the earth or in other word be prosperous. Now that is indeed "good news" and wise words of truth that are timeless.

In James 1:22 we read: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." So be open minded about all matters and aspects of life, make it a habit to learn from all interactions you have in life, be they good or bad. Be open minded not just out of faith because Jesus said so, but also because his wisdom will make you prosperous!

However, please keep in mind that merely nodding in agreement with this sermon and believing in its wisdom is not enough. You have to take action and bring your faith and knowledge into actual works!

¹⁴What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

¹⁵If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

¹⁶And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

¹⁸Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." James 2:14-18.

Happiness is a choice. To be happy you must have the means to have a pleasant life, poverty, starvation and ignorance are all caused by closed-mindedness. Prosperity does help you on your way to happiness.

What is most important in your life?

Is happiness important to you?

What is the best gift you could give yourself, your spouse or your children?

What have you learned this week?

What have you changed in your life this week?

The truth is that the only constant in life is change, and change is dependent on your ability to be open-minded. Thus happiness is a choice and it is yours to make ;-)

Amen

Pastor Dan Sommer
Postulakirkjan Beth-Shekhinah

