

discussion guide for february 18th

*“The Pursuit of Happiness – part 2”*

Matthew 5:5-6 (p. 1252-DSB\*)

GRIND IT  
BREW IT  
DRINK IT  
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

Pastor Tom said, “the right to *pursue* happiness is no guarantee you will *find* it.” Where are you on the road to happiness? We’ve looked at four parts of the *password* that opens the door. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst.”

Let’s briefly review what we learned about the first two parts of the password to happiness.

Matthew 5:5 (p. 1252-DSB\*)

- What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? Is being “poor in spirit” a pre-requisite to happiness? Why?

Matthew 5:6 (p. 1252-DSB\*)

- What does it mean to be one who mourns? What does one who mourns mourn about? Is brokenness a pre-requisite to happiness? Why?

\*“DSB” - The “Discovery Study Bibles” on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

The word “blessed” can be translated happy, fortunate, or approved by God. It is the inner glow one might feel standing before God and hearing him say “Well done!”

1. Happy are the meek (yielders)

*[Expresso: Greeks used the word prautes (meek) about a horse taken from the wild and tamed for the master’s use. Meek is nothing like weak, it is a description of harnessed power!]*

- ☐ Read Mt. 5:5 (p. 1252, DSB\*). What did Jesus indicate was the reward of the “prautes”? Read Ps. 37:1-11 (p. 693, DSB\*). List every reward mentioned. What did Jesus mean by “inherit the earth”?

- Make a list of the characteristics of a horse broken to bit and saddle, one ready to be ridden and used.
- Make a list of the characteristics of a believer who would fit the description of “meek.”

- ☐ Read 2 Tim 2:21 (p. 1599, DSB\*). What makes someone “useful to the Master”?

- ❖ HONOR – If we truly desire to live a life that honors God, why is “meekness” an essential quality to master?

2. Happy are the hungry and thirsty. (yearners)

*[Expresso: To “hunger and thirst for righteousness” means we long urgently and desperately to align our will with God’s will in every part of life.]*

- ☐ Read Mt. 5:6 (p. 1252, DSB\*). Explain why the righteousness mentioned here is to be understood as God at work in us (sanctification) rather than the righteousness God grants to us (justification)?

- Describe the natural activities of someone who acts out of a hunger or thirst for food and water.

- ❖ LIVE – How would a person desperately hungry and thirsty for God’s righteousness go about Living the Word in Life?

\*“DSB” - The “Discovery Study Bibles” on common ground tables.

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

Look at the order of the Beatitudes:

- ✓ a person who recognizes the poverty of his spiritual life opens up to the indwelling presence of God.
- ✓ a person who sees sin through God's eyes mourns over the brokenness within him and around him.
- ✓ a person who is broken-hearted over sin within and without can really yield to God's control.
- ✓ a person who lays down his life for God will passionately and desperately pursue the kind of life that pleases God.

Are you ready to embrace these biblical truths in your own life? This might be a good way to start every day, by praying the truths of the beatitudes as you give each new day to the Father.

- Lord, in my poverty I embrace your kingdom.
- Lord, in my broken heart I receive your comfort.
- Lord, with everything I am, I desire your control.
- Lord, with my whole heart I yearn to do your will.

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Allow for silent prayer as people consider the prayers written above.
- Pray for needs of people outside the group.
- Pray for needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name.

Go Deeper: Use the "*Savor*" section this week in your personal daily devotionals to reinforce the commonground experience.

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)

Last Sunday you explored what it means to yield to God and yearn for God. These passages will help you discover some practical applications of those attitudes.

Monday, February 19: Read Psalm 37:1-4, (p. 693-DSB\*). Once I heard a believer say, "I could have a boat and a lake house too if I didn't write that tithe check every month." What does these verses in Psalm 37 teach about that?

Tuesday, February 20: Read Psalm 37:5-6, (p. 693-DSB\*). What is the responsibility of the believer? What is the response of God? How does this reflect on the fourth beatitude, blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness?

Wednesday, February 21: Read Psalm 37:7-9, (p. 693-DSB\*). What does it mean to you to "be still, wait patiently," and "do not fret"? Is this easy or hard? Is it even possible? How?

Thursday, February 22: Read Psalm 37:10-15, (p. 1083-DSB\*). Is great peace - peace that passes human understanding - a worthy goal? Think of someone you know that seems to live a life of peace with God, others, and their world. What is the source?

Friday, February 23: Read Psalm 37:16-17, (p. 1083-DSB\*). Meditate on these two verses for the next 5-15 minutes allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Write your insights or thoughts on a blank sheet of paper, place the paper in an envelope addressed to you and mail it.

\*"DSB" refers to the "Discovery Study Bibles" available in common ground.