



Summer @EXPLORE

Peter Thomas, Pastor | July 23, 2017

“Choosing To Be HAPPY In My Present Condition” pt. 3

Question:

Are you happy or miserable in your life’s circumstances, and how?

HAPPY	MISERABLE

⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. ¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Matthew 5:9–12 (NLT)

(Reference John 16:32–33)

God blesses those who work for peace!

- This life that we are living comes with **constant and unpredictable conflict**

...most of the time, we cannot **fix or change our situation**

(Reference 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right!

- Persecutions come in **different ways, times** and for different **reasons** when we least expect it

...how we **handle ourselves** in the moment can **reflect the kingdom of heaven**

(Reference 1 Peter 3:15–17)

God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you...

- Expect your character to come **under attack, time-and-time again!**

...because there is **a price worth paying** and **a reward worth receiving** if we don’t give up or quit!

(Reference Galatians 6:9–10)

¹² Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:12–14 (NLT)

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