

By Choosing Wisely

**Matthew
6:19-34**



**Appropriating The Happiness
That Is In You**

Series Overview

The beatitudes is a list of attitudes prescribed by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount that are designed to build on one another to lead a Christian to true joy in Christ.

The attitudes are:

Being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, meekness, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemaking, and willingness to be persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Only Christians that “climb” this superstructure are in a place spiritually to “appropriate the happiness that is in you,” a process that Jesus describes directly after The Beatitudes.

This process of “appropriating the happiness that is in you” similarly builds on itself with the following steps:

By Being Salt, By Being Light, By Being Law Abiding, By Controlling Anger, By Keeping Sex In Marriage, By Shunning Narcissism, By Choosing Wisely, and By Judging Carefully.

Part Seven: By Choosing Wisely

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.

But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

*For the pagans run after all these things,
and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.
Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Matthew 6:19-34

God created mankind to make their own decisions, not to be robots or puppets on a string. We can see this illustrated in Scripture: The choice not to eat from the tree in the Garden of Eden. The choice whether or not to accept slavery in Egypt in the book of Exodus. The choice to worship Yahweh or Baal presented by Elijah. The greatest choice of all: whether or not to choose to follow Christ, or reject Him and face eternal consequences.

In verses 19-34, Jesus lays out a series of choices for believers.

The choice between two investment banks. (Vs. 19-21)

The choice between two visions. (Vs. 22-23)

The choice between masters. (Vs. 24)

The choice between two ambitions. (Vs. 25-34)

The choice between two investment banks. (Vs. 19-21)

Jesus is not saying that there is anything wrong with making money, but instead assumes that a Christian will be productive. Scripture elsewhere affirms good business practices. Jesus is instead warning Christians about hoarding their wealth.

Christians are to be generously investing their wealth in the bank of Heaven.

The choice between two visions. (Vs. 22-23)

Jesus is not referring to literal sight here, but spiritual vision and spiritual blindness.

If you are investing in the kingdom of God, you will be given spiritual insights, an eternal perspective, purpose and drive, joy for your work, and confidence in Christ and

His provision.

If your vision is clouded by mere hoarding and accumulation, your vision will be clouded by worldly values and worldly endeavors.

The choice between masters. (Vs. 24)

You cannot serve both God and money.

We are not to be serving money, but serving God WITH our money.

God wants exclusive ownership, allegiance, devotion, and attention. To share loyalty with God is idolatry.

The choice between two ambitions. (Vs. 25-34)

When we have comprehended the first three choices, we can focus on the fourth: the choice between peace and anxiety.

When we choose to invest in the Kingdom of Heaven, when we choose spiritual vision, when we choose God as your master, then we will be able to live a worry-free life. God will provide us with our needs when we need them.

We are thusly free to pursue Godly ambitions in service of His kingdom.

