



Jesus wants us to be blessed, to be happy, to experience His joy. Unfortunately, the search for personal peace and contentment can lead us on a journey that is often unfulfilling. This pursuit often ends with affluence, influence and indulgence, with possessions, power and pleasure. We climb the ladder of success only to wonder, when we've reached the top, if the ladders is leaning against the wrong wall! When we realize the inadequacy of our vain pursuits, we may try to limit them. This often results in the frustration of finding that we are inadequate to do so. Our desires just seem to be too strong. In *The Weight of Glory*, C.S. Lewis challenges this conclusion:

“Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

Let us commit to being dissatisfied with the temporal pursuits that can only gratify temporarily. Let us commit to being satisfied with that which has eternal value: that which pleases God and makes us whole-heartedly human!

Matthew 5:1-12	Luke 6:20-26
1 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them saying:	20 Looking at his disciples, he said:
3 <i>Blessed</i> are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 <i>Blessed</i> are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 <i>Blessed</i> are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 <i>Blessed</i> are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 <i>Blessed</i> are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 <i>Blessed</i> are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 <i>Blessed</i> are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10 <i>Blessed</i> are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.	<i>Blessed</i> are you who are poor for yours is the kingdom of God 21 <i>Blessed</i> are you who hunger now for you will be satisfied. <i>Blessed</i> are you who weep now, for you will laugh 22 <i>Blessed</i> are you when men hate you when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man 23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. 24 "But <i>woe</i> to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. 25 <i>Woe</i> to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. <i>Woe</i> to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. 26 <i>Woe</i> to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

1. What would your colleagues say makes them “happy? What would it take to make you happy today?
2. What is the meaning of the word “blessed”?
3. Compare the parallel accounts from Matthew and Luke. What are the similarities? The differences?

“*Blessed is the man [whose] delight is in the Law of the Lord.*” (Psalm 1)