



## Going Beyond What God Desires

Have you ever heard someone say, “*God doesn’t want me to be unhappy.*” Often, it the phrase people use right before they walk away from God. For example, “*God doesn’t want me to be unhappy...so I am leaving my marriage,*” or “*God doesn’t want me to be unhappy...so I am choosing to continue in this one particular sin,*” or “*God doesn’t want me to be unhappy...so I am doing what feels right to me.*” God not wanting me to be unhappy may sound spiritual. It may feel comforting. But it is not biblical.

Did you know that God’s goal is not our immediate happiness—it is our eternal holiness. Scripture does not say, “*Be happy because I am happy.*” It says, “***Be holy, for I am holy***” (***Leviticus 11.44; I Peter 1.16***). Being happy is wonderful, but it is not the compass God uses to guide our lives; holiness is. Happiness is a blessing of being holy, not a substitute for it.

Many people in their pursuit of happiness often run from God.

Do you remember the account of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15.11-32)?

The son thought, “*I will happier away from my father,*”

“*I will be happier with freedom to do as I please,*” “*I will*

*be happier doing what I want.*” That is what he thought, but

what he thought would bring great happiness actually led to hunger,

humiliation, heartbreak, and hopelessness. When he returned to his

father, he found the happiness he had been searching for all along.

Yes, chasing happiness often leads us away from God, but chasing God is what leads to true joy.



True happiness is found in God’s presence, not our preferences. David said, “***In Your presence there is fulness of joy***” (***Psalm 16.11***). Not in “*having my own way,*” “*living in sin,*” or “*forsaking the commandments of God.*” When we walk with God, our joy deepens, our peace grows, our hearts find peace. God does not want you to be unhappy—He wants you to be whole. So the next time you think, “*God doesn’t want me to be unhappy,*” instead, think “*God wants me to be holy,*” “*God wants me to be healed,*” “*God wants me to be His.*” When you walk faithfully before God, you will find a joy much deeper than happiness could ever give.

Where will you find your joy?

Gary

# How Poor Am I?

## Luke 14.7-11

- 1) Have you ever thought that you were poor?
- 2) How did you determine your poverty?

### I) \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5.1, 2).

- A) What are the Beatitudes?
  - 1) The Beatitudes are 8 declarations of \_\_\_\_\_ spoken by Jesus at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5.3-12).
  - 2) It is debated exactly how many beatitudes there are?
  - 3) The Beatitudes seem paradoxical.
  - 4) The Beatitudes are \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.
- B) What does the Greek word *Makarios* (“**blessed**”) mean?
  - 1) The fullest meaning of the term had to do with an \_\_\_\_\_ that is \_\_\_\_\_ by circumstances (Philippians 4.11-13).
  - 2) Many today teach the false doctrine that faithfulness to Jesus guarantees health, wealth, success, prestige, and prosperity (Titus 1.11).

### II) Who Are The \_\_\_\_\_ In \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5.3)?

- A) Does the word “**poor**” refer to material poverty?
  - 1) The term does not mean simply poor, but \_\_\_\_\_ poor.
  - 2) It means to be completely dependent on others for sustenance.
  - 3) Is that to what Jesus is referring when He says, “**Blessed are the poor**”?
- B) To be “**poor in spirit**” is to recognize one’s \_\_\_\_\_ poverty apart from God.
  - 1) In the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, which one was “**poor in spirit**”?
  - 2) There are biblical examples of people who recognized that they were poor in spirit.
- C) How do we become “**poor in spirit**”?
  - 1) First, we must take our eyes off \_\_\_\_\_ and look to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) Second, we must \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ by removing the things on which it feeds.
  - 3) Third, we should ask \_\_\_\_\_.

### III) \_\_\_\_\_ Poor In Spirit?

- A) How do I recognize whether or not I am poor in spirit?
  - 1) Some principles given by David Watson, say:
    - (a) One who is poor in spirit loses his \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) One who is poor in spirit will be lost in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (c) One who is poor in spirit will spend much time in \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (d) One who is poor in spirit will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God for His \_\_\_\_\_.
- B) Those who are poor in spirit will inherit the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1) Those who come to the Lord with broken hearts do not leave with broken hearts.
  - 2) God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, saying, ... (Isaiah 57.15).

**Conclusion:** Do you need to humble yourself before God today?

# CONNECTION

## O

## R

Good morning church family-

## N

You wake up, peek through the blinds, and the world is covered in white. Roads are slick. The parking lot at the church building is untouched. The usual Sunday routine—getting dressed, grabbing your Bible, greeting friends in the foyer—suddenly pauses.

## E

A “snow day” on a Sunday can feel like something is missing. But maybe... it’s an opportunity for something different. While we may not be able to gather in the same room, nothing about this day prevents us from connecting in spirit, heart, and intention.

## R

The early Christians didn’t have church buildings, livestreams, or group texts. Yet they were deeply connected because they understood something we sometimes forget: the church is people, not a place. A snow-covered Sunday can become a reminder of that truth.

Instead of rushing out the door, what if we slowed down and leaned in?

- Call a church member you haven’t spoken to in a while.
- FaceTime your children or grandchildren and read a Bible story together.
- Send a text of encouragement to someone who may feel isolated.
- Pray with your spouse or family in the living room.
- Open your Bible and read the same passages you would have heard today.
- Join the livestream or share a devotional video with a friend. Share a communion service time together.



Hebrews 10:24–25 reminds us not to neglect meeting together. That doesn’t only mean sitting in the same pew. It means intentionally stirring one another up to love and good works. Technology now allows us to “meet” in ways that weren’t possible before.

A snow day doesn’t cancel church. It simply moves it into living rooms, kitchens, and phone screens. It turns couches into pews. Coffee tables into communion tables. Phones into fellowship halls. Most importantly, it reminds us that connection with the Lord doesn’t depend on weather conditions. Our worship, prayer, and devotion are not confined to a building or a schedule.

So today, if the snow keeps us home, let’s not treat it as a lost Sunday.

Let’s treat it as a Snow Day Sunday—a day to intentionally reach out, connect, encourage, and worship from wherever we are.

Because even when the roads are closed... the body of Christ is still very much open! Try it, you’ll be blessed!

-- Les Keele

## SHEPHERDS

Greg Ball	214-801-7375
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Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
*John Walton	817-441-0000

\*Shepherd of the month

## MINISTERS

Gary Williams	662-321-3208
Pulpit Minister	
Les Keele	817-808-0566
Associate Minister	
James Bowie	817-944-4492

## THAI-LAOTIAN MINISTERS

Jeffery Lertboonpadong	206-819-9109
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## DEACONS

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Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

## MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

**Welcome** - Steven Johnston

**Song Leader** - Russ Jones

**Song** - He Has Made Me Glad

**Song** - Jesus Loves Me

**Song** - Higher Ground

**Opening Prayer** -

**Scripture** - **Luke 14:7-11**

**Song** - Amazing Grace

**Lord's Supper** -

**Prayer For Contribution** -

**Song** - Victory Chant

**"How Poor Am I?"** - Gary Williams

**Song** - Hear Me When I Call

**Announcements** - Les Keele

**Shepherd's Prayer and Dismissal** - John Walton

**Attended Nursery:** After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

### Our Code For Tithley Giving



### Our Code For Attendance



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### Monday, January 26

Genesis 45-46; Matthew 20

### Tuesday, January 27

Genesis 47; Matthew 21

### Wednesday, January 28

Genesis 48-49; Matthew 22

### Thursday, January 29

Exodus 1; Genesis 50; Matthew 23

### Friday, January 30

Exodus 2-3; Matthew 24

### Saturday, January 31

Exodus 4; Matthew 25

### LAST WEEK

Bible Class	127	On-Line Wednesday	5
Worship	193	Wednesday	85
Thai-Lao	35	Contribution	\$5,908.17
On-Line Sunday	24	Budget	\$15,372.28

### TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES

Bible Class	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM