



THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID “You Deserve to Be Happy”

Mark 8:31-38

February 9, 2025

Happiness defined... delighted, pleased, or glad over a particular thing; enjoying, characterized or indicative of pleasure, state of well-being, & contentment

Chat GPT said... Happiness is a deeply personal and subjective experience, but at its core, it often means a sense of contentment, fulfillment, and well-being. It's not just about feeling joy or pleasure in the moment, but also about having a sense of purpose, connection, and inner peace. Happiness can come from different sources for different people—relationships, achievements, personal growth, creativity, or even simple moments of gratitude. Some see happiness as a fleeting emotion, while others view it as a state of mind or a way of life.

What Jesus NEVER Said...

- Do whatever makes you happy – you do you
- I want you to be happy, you deserve to be happy
- Do whatever it takes to make you happy- YOLO
- You'll find happiness in this world
- Don't worry be happy
- Go into all the world and preach whatever makes people happy
- Whoever wants to be my disciple and be happy, must affirm themselves, avoid the cross, and follow their own heart
- Ask & it will be given to you, because God is your Celestial Sugar Daddy.
- Doesn't matter what you do just you do you Boo!
- I don't want you to be happy

What Did Jesus Really Say?

- ✓ Deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow me
- ✓ If you really want to live you have to learn how to die [Galatians 2:20](#)
- ✓ Blessed (joyful) are those who are poor in spirit, mourn, gentle, hunger & thirst after righteousness merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, persecuted [Matthew 5:3-12](#); [John 10:10 \(LB, NLT, Message\)](#); [Psalm 16:11](#); [68:3](#)

What Does Jesus Say He Want for Us...

- ✓ I'm more interested in your holiness than your happiness
Romans 6:6-7; Galatians 5:24
- ✓ I'm more interested in your obedience than your passing pleasures
1 John 2:17
- ✓ I'm more interested in your transformation than your temporary delight
James 1:2-4
- ✓ I'm more interested in My plan for you than your plan for you
Jeremiah 29:11
- ✓ I'm more interested in your soul than your circumstances
John 12:25
- ✓ I'm more interested in your joy than your happiness
John 15:11

Our Response:

1. How would you respond to the phrases such as do whatever makes you happy or you deserve to be happy in comparison to what Jesus said? What would happen if you only lived your life by these? What are the problems with living that way?
2. Are there any areas of your life where you've been looking for happiness instead of joy – looking for it in the wrong places? What are they? Confess and repent of them.
3. Can you understand why Peter would have responded to Jesus the way he does? Why was it so difficult for the disciples to understand that Jesus would be a suffering servant?
4. What does it mean for you to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus? What are some ways you can do that this week?
5. Why is it so hard for us to understand and put in practice, to truly live you have to learn how to die? How do you need to die this week & life for Jesus?
6. Look at the statement Jesus wants to say to us again. Which one(s) do you need to allow the Lord to do a fresh work in your life and why?