

ICYMI: You Can Be Happy Again!

January 26, 2020

ICYMI, Pt. 3

Isaiah 40:1, *Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed... 3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ... 9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"*

Ecclesiastes 2:1, *I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with **pleasure** to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless... 3 I tried cheering myself with **wine and embracing folly**—my mind still guiding me with wisdom... 4 **I undertook great projects**: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. 7... I also **owned more herds and flocks** than anyone in Jerusalem before me. 8 **I amassed silver and gold for myself**, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. 9 **I became greater by far than anyone in** Jerusalem before me... 10 **I denied myself nothing my eyes desired**; I refused my heart no pleasure... 11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind... 12 Then **I turned my thoughts to consider wisdom**, and also madness and folly. What more can the king's successor do than what has already been done? 13 I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness. 14 The wise have eyes in their heads, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the*

*same fate overtakes them both... 17 **So I hated life** because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.*

8 Principles For Being Happy Again:

1. Live With Real HUMILITY

Matthew 5:3, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

2. Live With Resilient EMOTIONS

Matthew 5:4, *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

3. Live With Deliberate GENTLENESS

Matthew 5:5, *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

4. Live With Genuine RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matthew 5:6, *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

5. Live With Intentional MERCY

Matthew 5:7, *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

6. Live With Increasing INTEGRITY

Matthew 5:8, *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

7. Live With Sincere PEACE

Matthew 5:9, *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

8. Live With Consistent GRIT

Matthew 5:10, *Blessed 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...

Take Action:

- Serve others at Cottonwood Creek by texting **SERVE** to 77978
- Text **2020** to 77978 to receive our weekly memory verse
- Men: Join the Pastor every Tuesday morning at 6:00a in the Atrium for the new series: "**Rebrand The Man!**"