



WEEK THREE

I'LL BE HAPPY WHEN . . .

March 29 & 30, 2014

Pastor Jeff Countryman

The lies we believe are so subtle, but yet they have the overwhelming ability to keep us from the life God wants for us. Discover how to live in the Truth that will set you free.

MESSAGE NOTES

PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with '10' meaning approval from other people is essential to your happiness and '1' meaning you really don't care what other people think of you, how do you rate your need for affirmation from your peers and loved ones in order to be happy?

2. Would you say you are sensitive to criticism? Ambivalent about it? What do you think factors in to how you react to criticism?

Have you ever felt like your worth was devalued because of criticism?

3. Take a look at these verses. What do they say about how much value God places on us?

- Matthew 10:29-31
- Romans 5:6-8
- Ephesians 1:3-5

4. Is it wrong to be a people-pleaser? Why or why not?

5. Actor and comedian Jim Carrey has said: "I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer." Why do you think he said that?

What do you think is the question that this faulty "answer" addresses?

6. Pastor Jeff said that when your happiness is contingent on other people, you are asking them to do for you what only God can do, and that is validate your worth. What did he mean by this?

7. Psalm 37:4 tells us that if we find our delight in God, He will give us the desires of our heart. What does it mean to you to find your delight in God?

What do you think happens to the desires of your heart when your delight rests in God alone?

How long do you think this process of finding delight in God takes?

8. The Hebrew word in the Old Testament for 'happy' is 'esher'. The Greek word in the New Testament is 'makarios.' Both words are also translated "blessed." What does this tell you about God's definition of happiness?

Personal Meditation: Pastor Andy Stanley said, "You are happy with what you have until you become aware of what you don't have." He also has said that if we instead focus our attention on what *others* don't have, we take the focus off of ourselves and we start to lose our appetite for the things we think we need to have. Be deliberate this week on meeting the needs of someone else. If you don't know where to start, contact Nate Alcorn, CRB's Impact Director.

Memorize Isaiah 26:3-4 — "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." (ESV)