

**Lambs in the Midst of Wolves – Part 1**  
***Identifying with Jesus in a Hostile World***

Luke 10:1-24; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-5-17

Point: We are to be happy, holy, humble lambs who pursue the happiness of wolves in God.

This passage is very much about happiness: See Luke 10:5, 17, 21, 23. These are the four major Biblical presuppositions that we need to embrace:

1. God wants us to pursue our happiness.
2. If you won't be holy, you can't be happy.
3. If you won't be humble, you can't be holy.
4. Our happiness in God is largely a matter of pursuing the happiness of others in God.

**God wants us to pursue our happiness.**

Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. <sup>2</sup> And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. – Luke 10:1-3

God is not the Cosmic Kill-Joy; He is the Cosmic Real Joy! We are to be happy lambs. (Psalm 16:11) We will not do what this passage calls us to do, if we do not believe that God wants us to pursue our happiness.

**The Bible talks more about happiness than we may realize.**

What we mean by happiness is not liking our earthly circumstances and feeling pleasurable things all the time. So what do we mean by happiness from a Biblical perspective? What we mean is true happiness or Biblical happiness which is rooted, not in earthly circumstances or changing feelings, but in the truth of God and our unchanging relationship with Him. We can see this kind of happiness expressed through these words: happy, blessed, joy, peace, content, satisfied. Let me give you a sampling: Isaiah 52:7; Proverbs 29:18; Psalm 21:6; Psalm 65:4; Matthew 5:6; Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 32:11; Psalm 43:4; Psalm 90:14; Psalm 100:2; Matthew 25:21; Luke 2:10; John 15:11; Romans 14:17; Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 1:24; Galatians 5:22; Hebrews 12:2; James 1:2; Jude 1:24; Psalm 122:6; Psalm 122:7; Psalm 147:14; Lamentations 3:17; 2 Corinthians 12:10; Philippians 4:11; Psalm 81:16; Psalm 90:14; Isaiah 55:2; Jeremiah 31:14. So, you can see, the topic of happiness, as God defines it, is a major theme of the Bible.

**We all want to be happy.**

O **satisfy** us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. – Psalm 90:14

**We all pursue happiness in our every decision.**

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But **happy** is he who keeps the law. – Proverbs 29:18

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the **joy** set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. – Hebrews 12:2

**We believe that those in authority over us should enable our pursuit of happiness.**

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and **joy** in the Holy Spirit. – Romans 14:17

**We were made to find true happiness in God alone.**

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of **joy**; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever. – Psalm 16:11

**Our problem is that we believe the lie that God is anti-happiness.**

<sup>4</sup>The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” – Genesis 3:1-7

**Our problem is not that we pursue happiness, but that we are too easily pleased.**

“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not **satisfy**? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. – Isaiah 55:2

**We must pursue happiness in God, to a large degree, by pursuing the happiness of others in God.**

These things I have spoken to you so that My **joy** may be in you, and *that* your **joy** may be made full. – John 15:11

**We can't be happy in God without being reconciled to God and becoming like God.**

What does that take? Holiness and humility. – Psalm 32:1; Psalm 34:8; Proverbs 16:20

**Conclusion**

God wants us to pursue our happiness – happiness in Him through submission to His Word. Do you believe that? Do you see that in the Word He has given us? Do you see it in the things He is bringing into your life? Do you see it in what He calls us to do?