God Wants Me To Be Happy

Tony Mauck · Exodus 2:23

INTRODUCTION

- God does not relish the miseries of his people, though sometimes they experience them.
- My simple answer to that is not if that thing is unlawful. Not if that thing runs counter to and opposed to the will of God.
- God nowhere promises or requires blissful circumstances, and God nowhere promotes indulgence of every desire. Eternal bliss is a future reward, not a present possession.

1 The Christian and Suffering

Hebrews 12:1; Romans 12:15; Hebrews 10:36

- Just a brief look at the biblical text would suggest that the Christian is not exempt from suffering.
- All of the men and women that are mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11, they experienced difficulties.
- Weeping and suffering are not diametrically opposed to the life of a Christian.
- It says, weep with those who weep. That says weeping is going to be involved in our Christian walk.
- Trials and endurance are characteristic words of the believer's life. You have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

2 The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:26–27; Exodus 23:2

- The mentality that God just wants me to be happy feeds into the very present mindset and attitude that removes the cross from Christianity.
- If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.
- What he is saying, even in regard to our own lives, is that something else has to come first. Your relationship with me. Your discipleship in my cause.
- Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
- Choosing to live right in the midst of an evil world, going against the grain of culture, running counter to popular thought, inevitably produces conflict.
- When you decide to be different, somebody will not be happy with that decision. And that will involve the cost of discipleship.

3 The Joy of the Righteous

Matthew 6:33; Romans 8:18; 1 Peter 1:13

- It does not mean that joy for the Christian is only a future consideration. There's some things God wants me to be happy about.
- Jesus offers no exemption from trouble.
- I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- Fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. That will bring joy in the midst of tough circumstances.
- I have the most valuable possession in the world. I have the hope of immortality. I have the knowledge of salvation.
- God wants you to be righteous. God wants you to be holy. God wants you to pursue goodness. And he'll bless you far beyond anything you can imagine.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you judgment ready and heaven-bound? God wants you to be happy. And he wants a happiness for you that you can't begin to know the depths of.

MY NOTES