



No Thing
Matthew 22:36-39; James 1:15
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
February 5, 2017

The Bottom Line: No “thing” can make you happy. Happy is about who, not what. The path to happiness begins with who.

Introduction: What makes you happy? Something comes to mind for all of us.

In this series, I’m going to tell you **what** makes you happy.

Happiness is more about *who* than *what*.

If happiness was about **what**, it would be easy. We could just get people their happy **what**, and that would be it! But ...

Happy **what** always leads to happy **what** else.

Evidence?

- We get sad when relationships go bad. Parents are generally never happier than their most unhappy child. Husbands are usually not happier than their wives.
- In the end, you will have **relational**, not **possessional**, regrets.
- Relationally disconnected people are not happy.

What makes you happy? **No** thing.

Happy people have *peace* with themselves, others, and God.

Any **thing** or **behavior** that undermines peace in any of those relationships undermines your happiness.

Peace with God paves the way to **peace** with ourselves and equips us to make **peace** with others.

Matthew 22:36-39, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Many think: “God is **in the way of happiness**.”
Jesus said God **provides the way to happiness**.

Another factor we have to consider in our discussion on happiness is this term: SIN.

Sin **separates** you from God.
Sin **separates** you from others.
Sin **separates** you from yourself.

Sin **separates** by **substituting** ...pleasure for fulfillment, things instead of people, images for intimacy, experience for exclusivity, immediate for ultimate, self-expression in place of self-control...

Sin makes a **happy promise** that sin can’t keep. **Sin** is not your **friend**.

James 1:15, “Then, after **desire** has conceived, it gives birth to **sin**; and **sin**, when it is **full-grown**, gives birth to **death**.”

NEXT STEPS:

- ❑ **Memorize: Matthew 22:36-40.**
- ❑ **Seriously Consider What Make You Happy.**
- ❑ **Seriously Consider Becoming a Follower of Jesus.**
- ❑ **Come Back Next Week for Part 2 of *What Makes You Happy***