

The Lord Jesus Said:	The World Today Says:	Parents Need to Teach and Train:
<p>Blessed, or happy, are the "poor in spirit," or those who know they need God's help to live like He wants them to live. (Matthew 5:3)</p> <p>"Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." They are part of God's people and His future kingdom.</p>	<p>Do your own thing. Be self-sufficient, self-reliant. Be your own person.</p>	<p>God wants you to depend on Him. He has a plan for your life, but He never expects you to "make it on your own" apart from Him. You can never please God without the Lord Jesus. (Proverbs 3:5)</p>
<p>Blessed, or happy, are those who mourn, especially in being sorry for their sins (Matthew 5:4).</p> <p>"They will be comforted."</p> <p>Jesus brings comfort to His people and forgives those who confess their sins and trust Him.</p>	<p>It's OK, as long as you don't get caught. Nobody's perfect. No problem. Never admit you're wrong; admitting sin is depressing. Justify your sin by blaming someone else.</p>	<p>Doing bad things never makes you really happy. When you are truly sorry for sinful actions and ask God's forgiveness, there is a special relief and happiness. Covering your sins or pretending they do not exist brings ultimate sadness and anger and calls God a liar. If you are really sorry, you will not want to sin again. (Psalm 32:1; 1 John 1:10)</p>
<p>Blessed, or happy, are the meek. These are those who are humble, not prideful, and who submit their strength to God's control (Matthew 5:5).</p> <p>"They will inherit the earth."</p> <p>They will be part of Jesus' kingdom on earth forever and ever.</p>	<p>Speak up for your rights. Make your voice heard. Exert your authority. Be first in line. God helps those who help themselves. Go for it!</p>	<p>We want you to be strong in body and mind, but the most important strength is learning to let God control you. Living God's way may not make you popular, but it is the only way to be inwardly happy. The Lord Jesus is your example. His Spirit will help you. (Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:14)</p>
<p>Blessed, or happy, are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6).</p> <p>"They will be filled."</p> <p>Jesus loves to fill His people's lives with joy in being His followers.</p>	<p>Money brings happiness. Get yours while you can. Try everything once. Be tolerant of deviant, sinful behavior. Do not have standards too high or you will have no friends.</p>	<p>When loving and pleasing God is your first priority, He will give you everything you need. Nothing in all the world gives satisfaction like reading God's Word and living to please Him. Never be embarrassed about trying to do what is right. (Psalm 37:4; Matthew 6:33)</p>
<p>Happy are the merciful (Matthew 5:7).</p> <p>"They will be shown mercy."</p> <p>Jesus wants us to be merciful to other people because we know we also have to have His forgiveness.</p>	<p>Only the strong survive. Capitalize on another's misfortune. "He made his bed — now he has to sleep in it." He got what he deserved.</p>	<p>Being kind to others brings special happiness and joy. When someone is hurt or sad or lonely, Christians take the time to help and show kindness, even when the person does not deserve it. It is never right to ignore someone who is in need when you can help. (Proverbs 3:27; Ephesians 4:32)</p>
<p>Blessed, or happy, are the pure in heart or who love God and want to please Him more than anything else. (Matthew 5:8).</p> <p>"They will see God."</p> <p>Those who believe in Jesus are given a new life and are changed on the inside, so that they want to please God and will live with Him forever.</p>	<p>God does not care about the little things or if you go to church or read your Bible; He wants you to have fun. Be popular — happiness is being part of the crowd and doing what everyone else does.</p>	<p>Loving God should be the most important thing in your life. He is the one you should love the most, and your behavior should show it. Your greatest satisfaction will not be from where you go and how you look, but from loving God with all your heart. (1 Samuel 16:7; John 14:21)</p>
<p>Blessed, or happy, are the peacemakers, or those who help people to know God and to be friends (Matthew 5:9)</p> <p>"They will be called sons of God."</p> <p>Bringing God's peace to others is being like Jesus.</p>	<p>Do not get involved — let people solve their own problems. It's more interesting to gossip and talk about the wrong things people do than to help them solve their problems.</p>	<p>Help people get along and be friends. Take time to tell people about Jesus. He will be their friend and solve their problems. Never talk unkindly about someone. Do not cause a fight. (Ephesians 4:3; John 14:27)</p>
<p>Blessed, or happy, are those who are persecuted because of righteousness or mistreated because they obey Jesus at any cost (Matthew 5:10).</p> <p>"Theirs is the kingdom of heaven."</p>	<p>Conform. Follow the crowd. Everybody is doing it. You deserve to be happy. A "good god" would not let his people suffer or hurt. What's in it for me?</p>	<p>Stand up for what God says is right, even if you are the only one and even if others make fun of you or hurt you. Getting hurt because you act like Jesus will give you special happiness — joy — in your heart. The majority is not always right; God's Word is always right. Dare to be different. (2 Corinthians 4:17)</p>