



VERTICAL SPORTS

3D DEVOTIONAL

3/14 Happiness isn't what the World Thinks

Sport: If we were to take a poll of the happiest players in the NBA, who do you think would top the list? The Richest, The ones who win the most, The ones with the most awards? In a research study done on players in the NFL the backup QB was in fact found to be the most confident and calmest player on the team. Why? Because they were often one of the higher paid players on the team and often never relied on to win games or make pivotal plays.

Life: In life the same question can be asked to the everyday median family, and the ones that are most content and happy are the ones with less money, items, and financial stability. The families that are often the happiest are the ones that eat every meal together, enjoy weekends together, and participate in a local church together.

Truth: Luke 6:20-21a **“Blessed are you who are poor, Blessed are you who are hungry now.”**

The world often considers the blessed life to be marked by financial stability, a nice home, a healthy family, and good friends. But in God’s kingdom, the blessed ones are the poor, hungry, weeping, and persecuted. This is sometimes referred to as the “upside-down kingdom.”

For instance, many of Jesus’s disciples left all they had to follow Him and experienced monetary poverty. They were also placed into spiritual poverty, meaning, they were in a spiritual state of humility and dependence on God, which should always mark a follower of Jesus. King David said it best, “Listen, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy” Psalm 86:1. King David was Humble before God. Finally, we see that God was sent to show that what the Jews thought they needed was in fact the complete opposite. “God scattered the proud because of the thoughts of their hearts; he has toppled the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly” Luke 1:51-52.

Prayer: That our minds are not set on the things of this world: money, fame, fortune. That we would have a heart set on what God wants us to focus on.