

nov 18, 2022

finding happiness

the eternal wisdom of God and the golden rule: "and just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise." luke 6:38

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once a group of 50 people were attending a seminar. suddenly the speaker stopped and decided to do a group activity. he started giving each attendee one balloon. each one was asked to write his/her name on it using a marker pen. then all the balloons were collected and put in another room.

now these delegates were let into that room and asked to find the balloon which had their name written within 5 minutes. everyone was frantically searching for their name, colliding with each other, pushing around others and there was utter chaos.

at the end of 5 minutes no one could find their own balloon. now each one was asked to randomly collect a balloon and give it to the person whose name was written on it. within minutes everyone had their own balloon.

the speaker then began, "this is happening in our lives. everyone is frantically looking for happiness all around, not knowing where it is.

our happiness lies in the happiness of other people.

give them their happiness; you will get your own happiness. and this is the purpose of human life ... the pursuit of happiness."

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i have often heard it said: "happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have." i guess scripture confirmation for that would be: "i have learned in whatever state i am to be content." phil 4:11 there is a quote by the actor mickey rooney (i know, i'm showing my age now). he said, "everything is about looking for happiness and God. that was a sentiment shared by my dear friend Ronald Reagan."

we who know the Lord are a blessed people. just this morning i was reading on a local neighborhood bulletin board about how grumpy a lot of the people were. indeed we should all take stock of where we are and what we have. the list of those who have so much less is immeasurable.

i pray we will all help someone else find the balloon with their name on it. finding that balloon may mean finding their self and in so doing, finding their need for a savior. there is a quote by c.s. lewis. "God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. there is no such thing."

"now godliness with contentment is great gain." 1 tim 6:6 i would venture to call that "true" happiness. if you have not already found it, i pray you soon will.