

# Money Matters 101

## Quarterly Study

### PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE FOR STUDY 1

## **The Secret of Satisfaction**

*We are blessed when our actions display a hunger  
and thirst for righteousness.*

There's no denying the fact that we live in a culture that has made the pursuit of happiness its chief goal. The editors of *Psychology Today* recently asked 52,000 Americans the question, "What would it take to make you happy?" As you might guess, there were a plethora of answers, including being in love, financial security, being more physically fit and attractive, and being more successful in a career.

The Bible never encourages us to seek happiness as an end in itself. According to Jesus, happiness is a byproduct of seeking God's kingdom way of life. The early church father St. Augustine said it poignantly: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God. And our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee." The first spiritual discipline is living for the only thing that will satisfy.

#### **Lesson #1**

**Scripture:**  
Matthew 5:6

**Based on:**

The sermon "The Secret of Satisfaction" by Chris Bennet, PREACHING TODAY SERMONS



## PART 1

**Identify the Current Issue**

The kingdom way of life is radical. Jesus' teaching contradicts the conventional wisdom we've been taught all of our lives. For instance, our Lord said, "He who saves his life will lose it. But he who loses his life for my sake shall find it." Jesus said, "You've heard it said that you should hate your enemies, but I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you." He said, "If you want to be great in the kingdom, become the servant of all." In the Beatitudes, Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek." Jesus was showing us that the root of our misery is that we live such self-centered lives. We need to be delivered from ourselves.

## PART 2

**Discover the Eternal Principles**

**Teaching point one: Jesus commanded us to desire righteousness.**

**Teaching point two: Our actions show if we desire God's righteousness.**

## PART 3

**Apply Your Findings**

That illicit relationship that seemed so thrilling at the beginning has left you with the residual sediment of guilt and brokenness. The drugs and alcohol that you thought would numb your pain can't keep you from waking up again in a real world filled with problems. That new toy you bought, thinking it would bring you so much fun and excitement, is already boring and you have 58 payments left! You're pouring your life into a broken cistern. Your soul is hungry and your heart is thirsty for living water that can only come from God.

C. S. Lewis wrote, "If I find within myself a desire which nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." Indeed, we are!

*—Study by Chris Bennet, with JoHannah Reardon*

