

Message Notes

"You deserve to be happy."

Financial Update

NEW SERMON SERIES

The Waters in which we Swim -
Cultural Dogmas &
Gospel Responses

THIS WEEK

"You deserve to be happy."

What this dogma sounds like

The disagreement amongst aca-
demics regarding happiness

Jeremiah 2:1-19

"Where is the LORD?"

The two sins committed by
God's people

"No awe of me"

Is it as simple as worship of the
LORD? Yes and no

Two important caveats in con-
sideration of happiness

- Your _____ of happi-
ness
- Your view of

What it comes down to is your
answer to this question

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Jeremiah 2:1-13

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: "This is what the LORD says: " 'I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown. 3 Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them,' " declares the LORD. 4 Hear the word of the LORD, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel. 5 This is what the LORD says: "What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. 6 They did not ask, 'Where is the LORD, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?' 7 I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. 8 The priests did not ask, "Where is the LORD?" Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. 9 "Therefore I bring charges against you again," declares the LORD. "And I will bring charges against your children's children. 10 Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: 11 Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. 12 Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD. 13 "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

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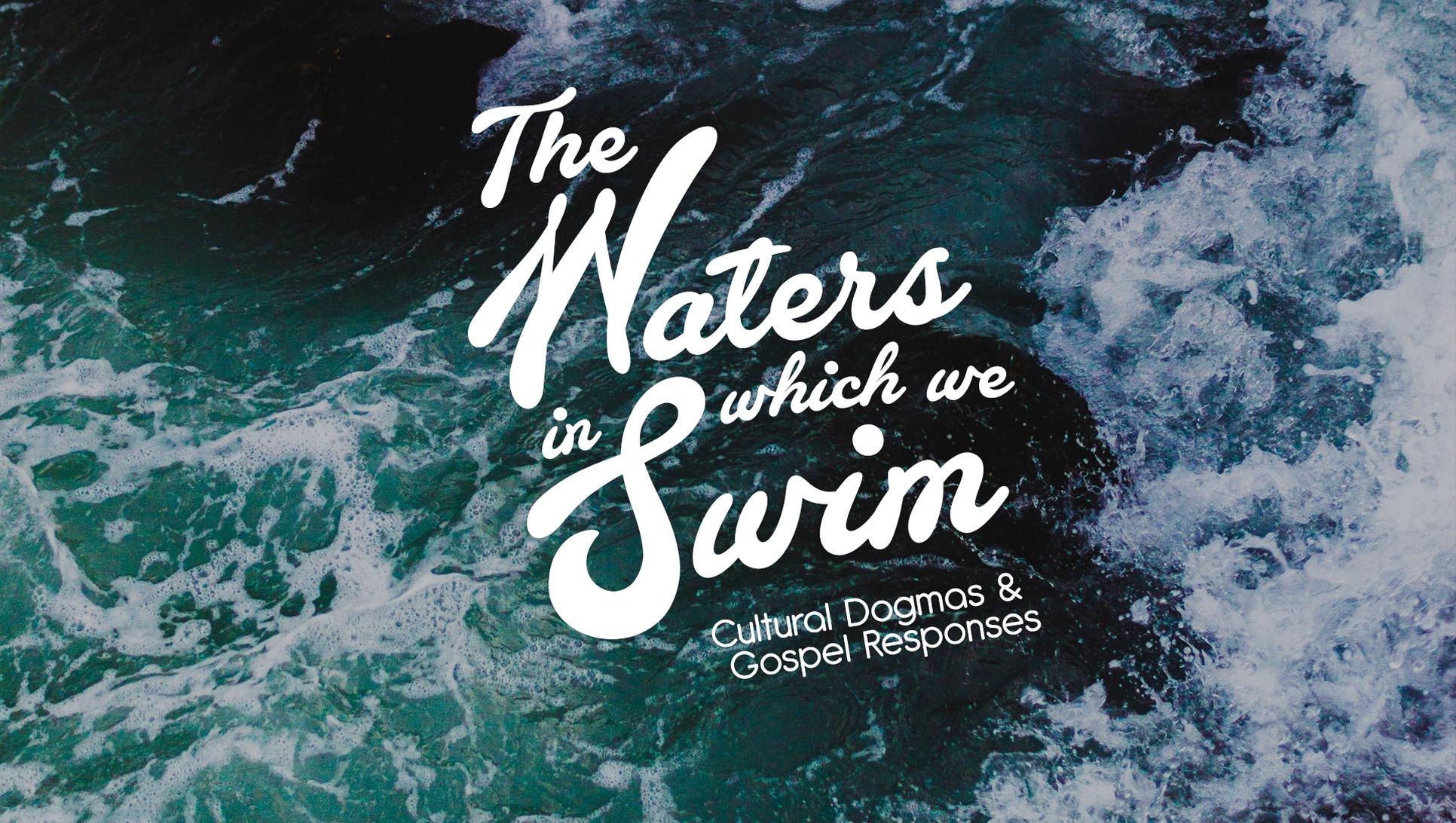
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The
Waters
in which we
Swim

Cultural Dogmas &
Gospel Responses



Brooke Noble



Caleb Fernholz



Emily Severson

The Cultural Dogma:

“You deserve to be happy.”

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“You deserve to be happy.”

“If you’re not happy, you should get rid out what is making you unhappy and fill yourself with what makes you happy...because, after all, you deserve to be happy.”

You deserve
to be happy.
Don't let
anyone
make you
forget that.

**Be happy!
Simply
because you
deserve to be •**



**You deserve to be
with somebody who
makes you **happy**.
Somebody who won't
complicate your life.
Somebody who won't
hurt you.**

Wanting to be happy can make you less happy.
If you explicitly and purposely focus on happiness, that
appears to have a self-defeating quality.

Iris Mauss, an assistant professor in psychology at the
University of Denver, study researcher,
<https://www.livescience.com/14229-happiness-factors.html>

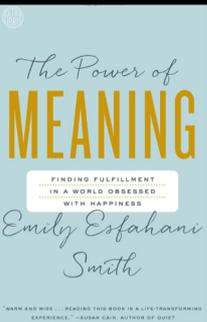


Don't aim at happiness – the more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For happiness cannot be pursued; it must ensue...as the unintended side-effect of one's personal dedication to a course greater than oneself.

Viktor E. Frankl, author of *Man's Search for Meaning*, survivor of 4 different death camps in Nazi Germany from 1942-1945



Eventually I decided to go graduate school for positive psychology to learn what truly makes people happy. What I discovered there changed my life. The data showed that chasing happiness can make people unhappy and what really struck me was this: the suicide rate has been rising around the world and it recently reached a 30-year high in America. Even though life is getting objectively better by nearly ever conceivable standard, more people feel hopeless, depressed, and alone... There is an emptiness that is gnawing away at people... Sooner or later I think we all wonder, "Is this all there is?" ...According to the research, what predicts this despair is not a lack of happiness but a lack of having meaning in life.



Emily Esfahani Smith, There's more to life than being happy, TED2017,
https://www.ted.com/talks/emily_esfahani_smith_there_s_more_to_life_than_being_happy/discussion?referre#t-83714

Israel is set apart

Jeremiah 2:1-3

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: “This is what the LORD says: ‘I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown.

³ Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them,’ ” declares the LORD.”

The descent to worthlessness

Jeremiah 2:4-5

⁴ Hear the word of the LORD, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel. ⁵ This is what the LORD says: “What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves”

Where is the LORD?

Jeremiah 2:6-8

⁶ They did not ask, 'Where is the LORD, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?' ⁷ I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. ⁸ The priests did not ask, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols.

The LORD takes his people to court!

Jeremiah 2:8-9

⁹ “Therefore I bring charges against you again,” declares the LORD. “And I will bring charges against your children’s children.”

¹⁰ Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: ¹¹ Has a nation ever changed its gods?
(Yet they are not gods at all.)

What's the charge?

Jeremiah 2:11-13

But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. ¹² Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD.

¹³ "My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

The consequence of Israel's sin

Jeremiah 2:14-16

¹⁴ Is Israel a servant, a slave by birth? Why then has he become plunder? ¹⁵ Lions have roared; they have growled at him. They have laid waste his land; his towns are burned and deserted. ¹⁶ Also, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes have cracked your skull.

The consequence of Israel's sin

Jeremiah 2:17-19

¹⁷ Have you not brought this on yourselves by forsaking the LORD your God when he led you in the way? ¹⁸ Now why go to Egypt to drink water from the Nile? And why go to Assyria to drink water from the Euphrates? ¹⁹ Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the LORD your God and have no awe of me," declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.

The Cultural Dogma:

“You deserve to be happy.”

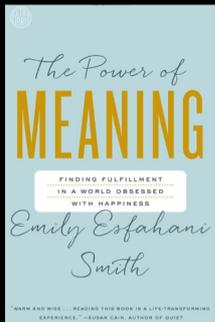
“If you’re not happy, you should get rid out what is making you unhappy and fill yourself with what makes you happy...because, after all, you deserve to be happy.”

Belonging which springs from love

Purpose found by using strengths resulting in selfless giving

Transcendence by getting into a mental state of complete focus
and engagement

Storytelling: the story you tell yourself about yourself



Emily Esfahani Smith, There's more to life than being happy, TED2017,
https://www.ted.com/talks/emily_esfahani_smith_there_s_more_to_life_than_being_happy/discussion?referre#t-83714



Two important caveats in consideration of happiness

Two important caveats in consideration of happiness

#1 – Your definition of happiness

Matthew 6:19–21 (NIV)

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

According to one research study, doubling your income only increases happiness by 9 percent.

#blessed

Two important caveats in consideration of happiness

#1 – Your definition of happiness

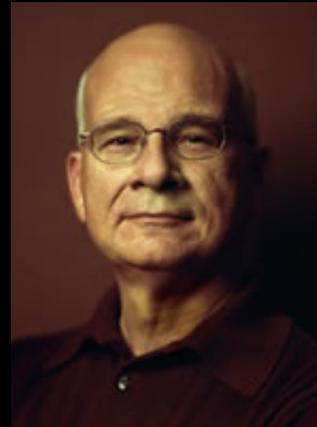
#2 – Your view of suffering

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

In the secular view, suffering is never seen as a meaningful part of life but only as an interruption...Christianity teaches that, contra fatalism, suffering is overwhelming; contra Buddhism, suffering is real; contra karma, suffering is often unfair; but contra secularism, suffering is meaningful. There is a purpose to it, and if faced rightly, it can drive us like a nail deep into the love of God and into more stability and spiritual power than you can imagine.

~ Keller, Tim. (2013). *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*,





There is an incredible blessing(s) walking with a limp. Like never before I need to be dependent on my creator.

Iosa, Mo dochus, Amain (Jesus, my hope only).

Not just for freedom from dying from cancer, but for living with it. Part of me emotionally so wants to be done with this battle and choose other battles to fight for the kingdom. However, I can't think of any other battle that makes me more dependent on the good shepherd.

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV)

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

You don't really know Jesus is all you need
until Jesus is all you have.

~ Keller, Tim. (2013). *Walking with God through Pain and
Suffering*,



I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.