

Advent Devotional – Day 4 (December 5, 2018)

Happiness is...

How would you complete the thought?

Go ahead, take a moment and think about it.

“For me, happiness is...”

Some would say the love of family, friendship, or a fulfilling career. For others it might be having enough food to eat or a warm place to stay at night. Maybe you would say belonging to a church or helping others.

What do you think most people would say? Would you guess WiFi?

Yesterday, just like most mornings, Jeff and I were watching the news when the Question of the Day came up. Yesterday, the question was:

“The number one thing that makes people happy is WiFi. What’s the second thing?”

Yes, you read that right. The number one thing that makes people happy is not family, friendship, or even their pets. It’s not a fulfilling career, belonging to a church, or helping others. It’s not even the basic comforts of life. No, it’s WiFi. And the second thing? A good cup of coffee.

Don’t get me wrong, I love WiFi (Google knows everything, and I have hundreds of Facebook friends!), and I truly enjoy a good cup of coffee. But would I put them as number one and two? Would you?

As Christians, shouldn’t God be the one who occupies the number one spot? I don’t mean just because he commanded that we have no other gods before him (Exodus 20:2), but because God truly makes us happy, and the love of God enables us to be happy. I think the Psalmist really captures it when he says:

The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!  
The one the Lord doesn’t consider guilty—  
in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—  
that one is truly happy!

Psalm 32:1-2 (also in Romans 4:7-8)

In the Gospel of John we read that God sent his only Son, Jesus, so that the words written by the Psalmist would describe us. (John 3:16-17)

This is what we anticipate and celebrate during this Advent/Christmas season. God’s Son will come into our world to heal and forgive us of all our sins, so that we can be truly happy in this life and the next. So, go ahead, sit down with a good cup of coffee and share this Good News with all your Facebook friends. True happiness is found only in the Lord.

Happy in Christ,  
Pastor Jannette