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Human happiness in Sacred Scriptures

- **God's presence in human life**
- **Human relations**
- **Bible**
- **Conversion and happiness**
- **Fruitfulness and joy**
- **Experience of forgiveness**



I have no good apart from you (Ps 16:2)

**Biblical prospective
of human happiness**



God is close to us

- **Man speaking to God**
= יהוה (Ps 16;2)
 - **My Lord (Master)**
 - **My good, my wellbeing; being fine**
(טובה *tobâ*)
- **“I am with you”**
(Gen 28:15; Exod 3:12)
 - **Jacob**
 - **Moses**
- **Center of the Psalm in Ps 23:4**
 - **“You are with me”**
- **Covenant in Exod 6:7:**
 - **“I will take you”**
- **“Walking with”**
- **He walked with God**
(Gen 5:22.24; 6:9)
 - = righteousness
- **Enoch – Good took him (5:24)**
- **Noah – collaboration in harmony, universal Covenant in Gen 9:8-17**



People, Law

- What is the reaction of Esau in Gen 33:4?
- Run to meet, embrace, kiss
 - Like father of the prodigal son (Lk 15)
- “*they wept*” (HB, LXX)
 - 20 years of guilt and fear
 - Unsolved conflict
 - Jacob’s interpretation in Gen 33,10:
- “like seeing the face of God”
(Gen 33:10 cf. 32:31)
 - “I have seen God face to face” (Post 32,31)
- What is Torah for a righteous man in Ps 1:2?
- “his delight is in the Law of the Lord” (Ps 1:2)



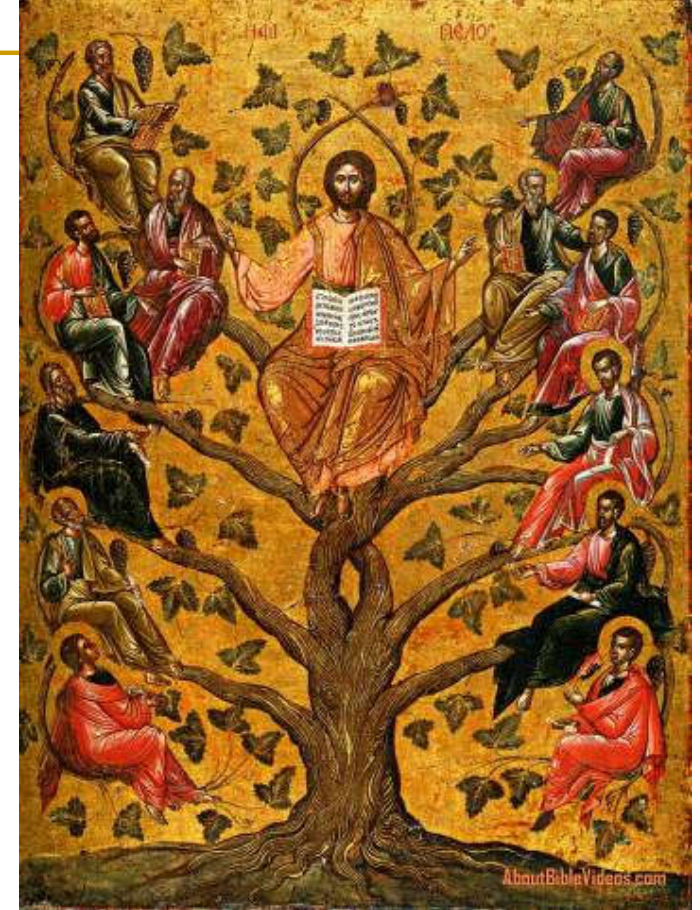
Conversion

- ❑ Emotions towards the Law in Nehemiah 8:9?
- Tears and sorrow – catharsis, contrition
 - ❑ Nehemiah’s instruction in 8:10:
- “Eat of the fat, drink of the sweet!”
 - ❑ Integral joy
- Prodigal son (Luke 15:18.21; 24:32):
 - ❑ Son: “I have sinned” (v18.21)
 - ❑ Father: “dead, lost” (v24.32)
 - ❑ sin (18.21), death, doom (24.32)
- Older brother – emotion (v28)?
 - ❑ Anger (cf. Cain Post 4,5s)
- In the middle: εὐφραίνω (Luke 15:23.24.29.32)
- “be merry, celebrate”



Fruits

- ❑ Righteous in Ps 1:3:
- Like fruitful tree (Ps 1:3)
 - ❑ Jesus (without “like”) in John 15:5:
- Vine and branches
 - ❑ How to fulfill the first commandment: “Be fruitful!” (Gen 1:28)
 - ❑ Personal relation, life “in Christ”
- The purpose of the instruction in John Iv 15:11?
- “that your *joy* may be complete”
 - ❑ “my joy” (15,11) – joy of the master (cf. Matt 25:21.23)
- What do they feel on the way to Emmaus (Lk 24:32)?
- “Our hearts burning” (Lk 24:32)





Light of Christ

**Deep happiness of the
one saved from death
John 8:1-12**



Master in action

- **“I am the light of the world” (Iv 8:12)**
 - **Light – first creation (Gen 1:3) – good (v4)**
 - **“I know where I have come from and where I am going” (John 8:14)**
 - **Light coming into the world (John 1:9)**
- **“in the temple” (8:2)**
 - **“they went *away*” (v9)**
- **“sitting, teaching”**
“all the people” (v2)



The light shines in the darkness (John 1:5)

- **Guardians of the Law (John 8:3):**
- **“scribes and Pharisees”**
- **intention: πειράζω
(v6; Mark 1:13)**
- **Tempt – tempted by Satan
(Mk 1:13)**
- **The Law of *Moses* (John 8:5)**
- **Stoning (Deut 22:24)**
 - **“ the adulterer and the adulteress (Lev 20:10);**
 - **“both of them” (Deut 22:22.24)**
- **Man? – abusing, raping, paying?**



The power of the sin

- **How do they treat her (John 8:3)**
 - She was brought (v3) – object
- **Woman – instrument**
- **Double darkness for her:**
 - Personal sin
 - Sin of such religious structure
- **Adulteress in the Bible =**
- **People of God**



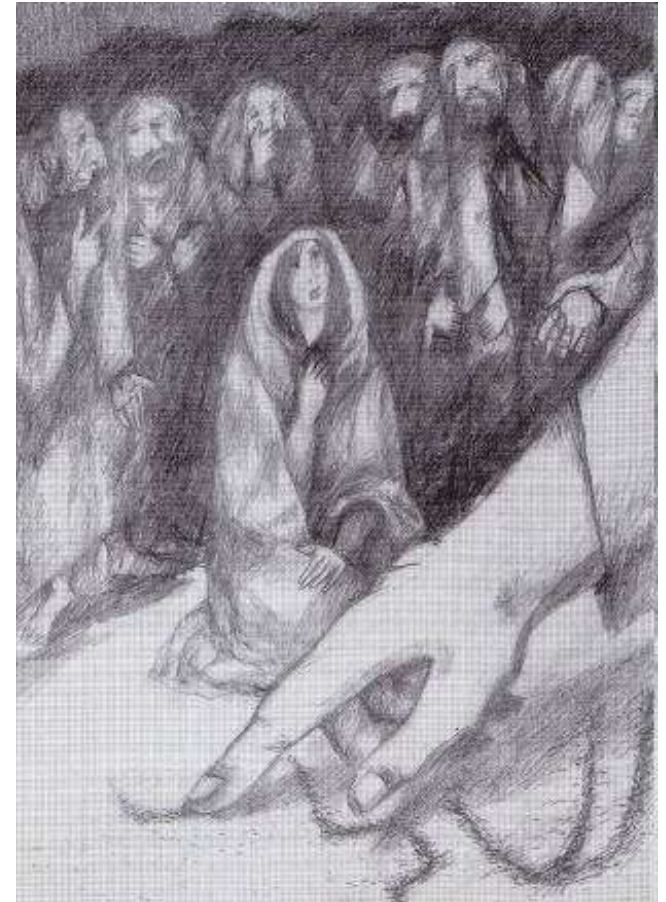
The Master answers

- Twice non-verbal and with words (John 8:6-8)
- 1. gesture:
 - 2x Jesus bent down (v6.8)
 - Near to the oppressed, exposed to the executors
 - He knows the fear of death (Gethsemane)
- 2. gesture: he wrote with his finger (v6.8)
- On the ground (cf. dust of the *ground* Gen 2,7)



Jesus and the sin

- **Let “non-sinner” be the first (John 8:7)**
 - They went away (with their sin)
 - They do not accept the dialog, she will go away justified
- **Jesus and the sin (v11.59; 1:29)**
 - He doesn't condemn her (v11)
 - He takes away the sin (1:29)
 - “they picked up stones to throw at him” (8:59)



New mission

- ❑ Jesus is addressing her (John 8:10):
- **Woman! (cf. Gen 1:27)**
 - ❑ Contrast to being brought and accused
 - ❑ Like to his mother in Cana (John 2:4);
 - ❑ On the cross (19:26)
- **She answers (8:11) – dialogue:**
- **Lord! – κύριος = יהוה (v11)**
 - ❑ She alone, the others (v4): “Teacher!”
- **Mission in v11:**
- **“Go!” = live! – the power of Resurrection**
 - ❑ Sin no more!

