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
  = יְהוָה (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” (Jn 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!