

Scripture: Matthew 5.1-12 (C&Y)  
Date: January 30, 2011  
Service: 4 Epiphany, Children & Youth Sunday  
Place: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palatka, FL  
The Rev. Canon James M. Dorn III, Rector

Today I read the beginning of the greatest sermon ever preached, The Sermon on the Mount.

Can you tell me who preached this sermon?

Can you tell me what the beginning of Jesus' sermon called?

It's called the Beatitudes because it tells of God's blessings when things aren't going so well. We could say they are BE-ATTITUDES because they tell us what attitude to have to be happy.

Can you tell me what makes you happy?

The Bible tells us about true happiness and it also says money, toys, parents, and your friends will not make you happy. Which is why Jesus sat his friends down on the mountainside and told them about God's blessings and the happiness they bring.

I'm going to tell you about God's blessings using the word happiness and then explain the attitude you need to have to be blessed with happiness and if you are very good and quiet while I speak, I have a sweet treat for you.

***Those people who know they have great spiritual needs are happy, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them!***

When your heart is sad let Jesus into your heart and you will be happy because the Kingdom of heaven is yours.

***Those who are sad now are happy, because God will comfort them!***

When you are sad and cry, Jesus will love you and comfort you making you happy.

***Those who are humble are happy, because the earth will belong to them!***

When someone praises you for doing something good, be happy and say thank you but do not brag to your friends and God will smile at you.

***Those who want to do right more than anything else are happy, because God will fully satisfy them!***

When you do what Jesus wants, loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor like you love yourself and then you will be happy.

***Those who show mercy to others are happy, because God will show mercy to them!***

When something bad happens to someone, do not pick on them and make fun of them; instead be kind to them and you will be happy because God will be kind to you.

***Those who are pure in their thinking are happy, because they will be with God!***

When we don't think about God, do bad things, act ugly, read bad books, and watch shows we shouldn't then we are not with God and we are unhappy. But when we think about God, do good things, read good books, and watch good shows on TV then we are happy because we are with God.

***Those who work to bring peace are happy, because God will call them his children!***

When your friends fight and you help them be nice to each other, then you are a peacemaker and a Child of God.

***Those who are treated badly for doing good are happy, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them!***

When you tell your friends, "That's wrong, I won't do it!" They might make you unhappy by calling you names but do not let it upset you because doing the right thing will always make you happy in your parents house and in Jesus' Kingdom.

When you have the right attitude, you will be happy, you will be blessed by God, you will see Him face to face, and you will know Jesus Loves you.

Let us pray,

Jesus, we want to be happy. Please love us and bless us when we feel alone, when we cry when someone dies, when we do what you want us to do, when we do not brag, when we are kind to others, when we think good things, when we stop our friends from fighting, and when we do the right thing even when others may tease us. Thank you Lord Jesus for loving us and answering our prayer. Amen.