

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

January 29, 2017

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

I Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12



A Recipe for Happiness Object: A printed copy of a recipe.

Today, I have a recipe for a tasty snack. You know what a recipe is, don't you? A recipe is a set of instructions, including a list of all of the ingredients that tell you how to prepare a dish.

Did you know that Jesus gave us a recipe for living a happy life? In the book of Matthew, it says, "Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them."

What did he teach them? He taught them a lesson which we call "The Beatitudes." Each one of the beatitudes starts with the words, "Blessed are they. . ." Some translations of the Bible use the word happy instead of blessed. Let's see what Jesus said about what is needed for a happy life full of God's blessings.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

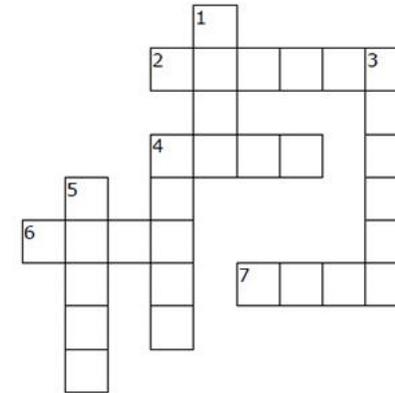
You may think that some of those things that Jesus taught sound pretty difficult, and you are right. Even when you have a recipe, it may be difficult to follow, but if you follow the instructions, you can be assured of a good outcome. Jesus did not promise that life would always be easy, but he did say if we follow the teachings in today's lesson, we can be assured that we will receive God's blessing and we will be happy indeed!

Dear Father, we thank you for the teachings of Jesus. Even though life may not always be easy, we know that if we follow his teachings, we will be blessed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

-Used by Permission by Sermons4kids

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia (Matt. 5:12)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. A need for food
4. To be humble in spirit or manner
6. Having little money or few possessions
7. To feel happiness, joy and pleasure

DOWN

1. To be without any faults; without sin
3. A payment received in return for doing good deeds
4. To show great kindness toward others
5. To feel sadness

PURE	MOURN	REWARD	HUNGER
POOR	GLAD	MERCY	MEEK

BEATITUDE PUZZLES: Give the child an envelope with one of the beatitudes written on a slip of paper and then cut into pieces. The child will arrange the pieces of paper in the correct order.

HAPPY BOOKLET: Give the child pieces of construction paper with circles drawn on them to be cut out (already drawn for the child so all circles are the same size). The circles can be placed together to form a booklet and hole punched and tied together with a piece of string or yarn through the hole to hold the circles together. Each page can be a HAPPY page -- with Happy stickers of all kinds, or drawings of various types of HAPPY faces. Encourage them to use words from our lesson today that make us happy in Jesus. Encourage the child to look at their HAPPY BOOKLET throughout the week!

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MATTHEW 5:1-12

