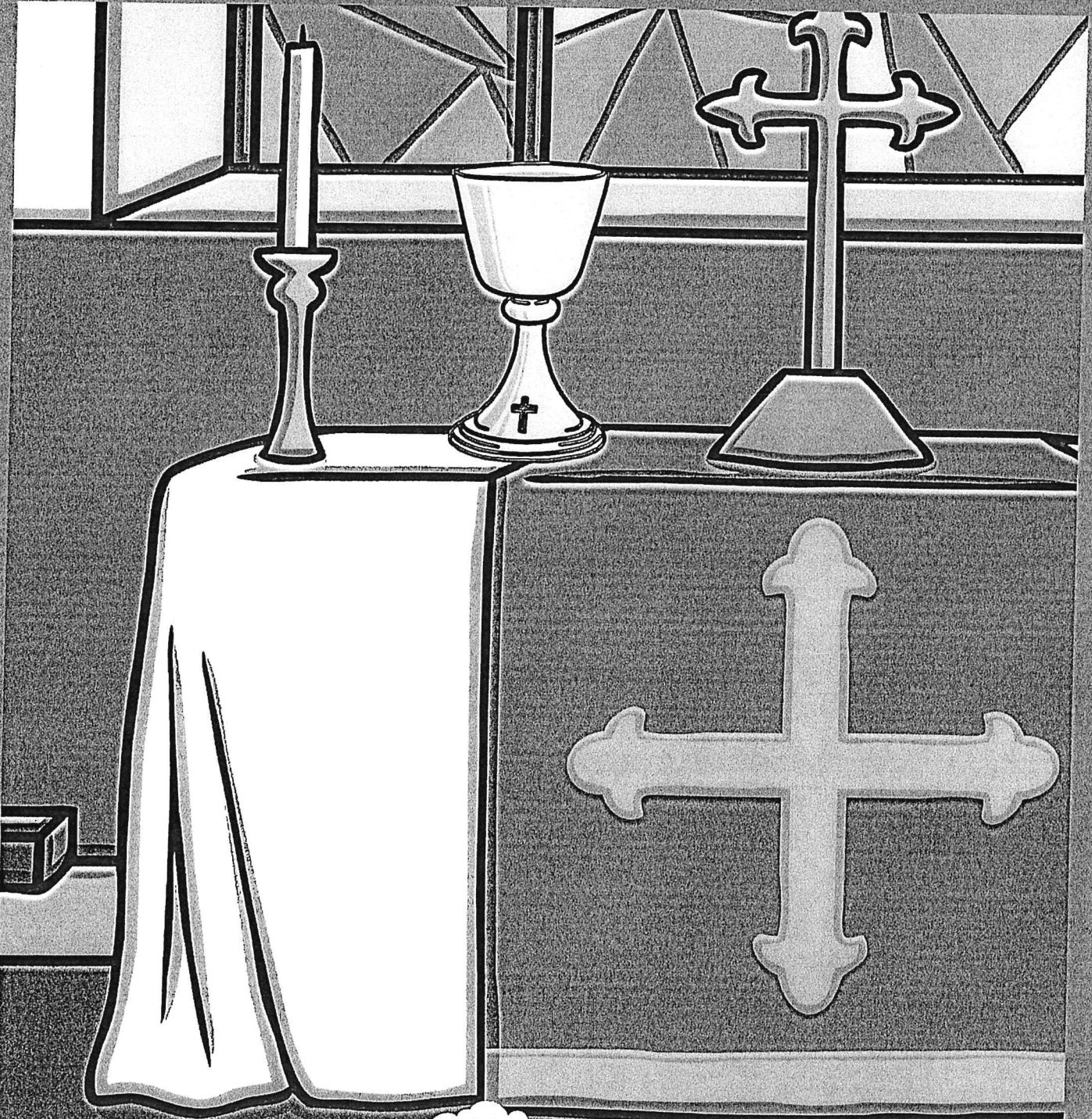


Religious Education



Jesus Teaches Us How to Be Happy

STORY
Matthew 5

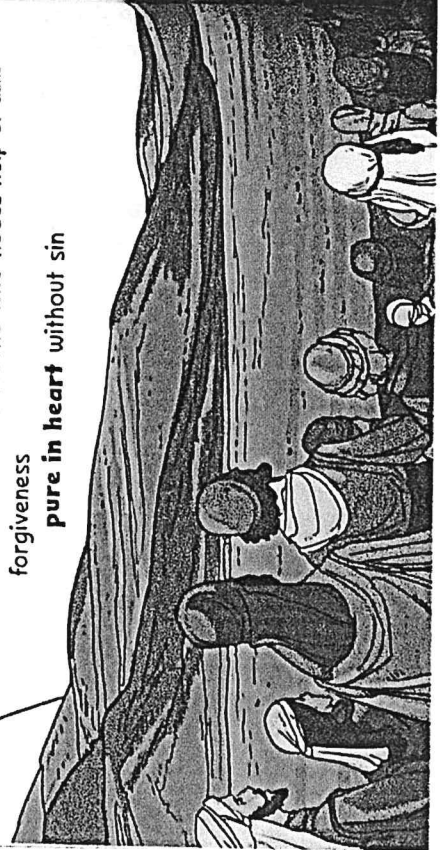


Matthew 5:6-9 (For the full story, read Matthew 5:1-12.)

- 6 "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!
- 7 "Happy are those who are **merciful** to others; God will be merciful to them!
- 8 "Happy are the **pure in heart**; they will see God!
- 9 "Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!"

merciful kind to someone who needs help or asks forgiveness

pure in heart without sin



Understand it!

We wish one another a happy birthday, a happy Easter, and a happy new year. God made us to be happy. So we show our care for others by wanting them to be happy. In this Bible passage from Matthew, Jesus gave us the secret to happiness. He named the ways we should act to be truly happy. He promised that living these ways would lead us to God's Kingdom. One way is to have mercy. This means to be a helpful and forgiving person. Another way is to be pure of heart. This means avoiding all sin. A third way is to work for peace. Jesus did not just teach us these things; he lived them. He had mercy and a pure heart. He was a peacemaker. When we follow his example, we will be truly happy.

Matthew 5
STORY

Live It!

Here are three of the ways for being happy that Jesus taught us. Pick one of the ways and write it down at the top of a sheet of paper. Then draw a picture of someone living that way.

- have mercy
- be pure of heart
- work for peace

Your picture will remind you of Jesus' directions for being truly happy.

Tell it!



1

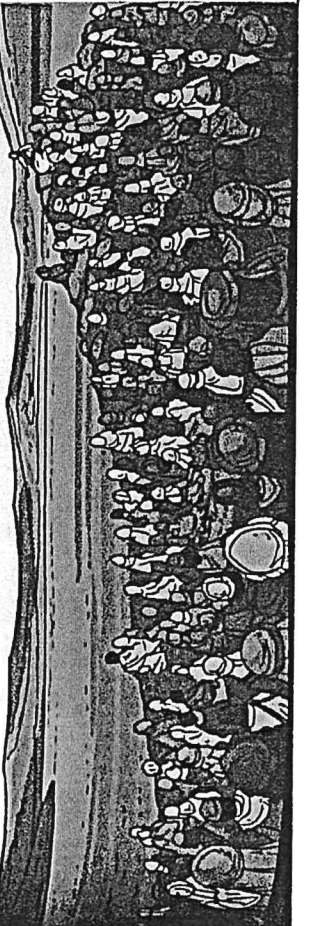


2



3

Using the pictures above, retell this reading in your own words.



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Prisoner of Conscience

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you... because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven



Living the Gospel

Which Beatitude of Jesus do we find when we think about these events?

Mrs Kennedy looked very serious. Rory had misbehaved in the art room and broken a project two girls had worked on for days. He was very sorry and upset about what he had done. Mrs Kennedy knew that Rory was trying, even though he sometimes made mistakes. She looked at him for some time and then said, "Well, Rory, how are you going to make up to the girls for destroying their precious work?"

Rory thought for a while and then answered. "Do you think the girls would let me help them work on the project?"

Mrs Kennedy looked surprised at this request. "You know you are going to have to ask them yourself Rory. They were very disappointed and they may not want to work with you."

Rory did apologise to the girls and ask them if he could make up for his terrible behaviour. The girls were hesitant to agree at first as they did not really trust Rory. They talked for ages about allowing Rory to work with them. They knew that he was trying to control his behaviour and deep down he was really a good person.

Finally they decided that their answer would be "Yes" to Rory's request to work with them.

What Beatitudes are being lived out by the girls and Rory?

Old Jack was talking to his mate Pat. It was a week after his wife's funeral Mass. "I feel very sad, Pat, now that Julie's gone."

Pat listened to Jack as he talked about all the wonderful things that this loving couple had shared throughout their lifetime together.

Old Jack valued Pat as a friend who allowed him to remember all the times in which Julie and he had celebrated their life together.

What Beatitudes can you see in action in Pat and Old Jack?