

Ordinary 4A - 2023

"Really happy and was still in their right mind?"

There was a *Peanuts* cartoon years ago in which Lucy asked Charlie Brown if he had ever known anybody who was really happy. Before she could finish her sentence, however, Snoopy came dancing on tiptoe into the frame, his nose high in the air. He danced and bounced his way across two frames of the cartoon strip. — Finally, in the last frame, Lucy finished her sentence, "Have you ever known anybody who was really happy, and was still in their right mind?" (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

God Shows Through

One Sunday as they drove home from church, a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, there's something about the preacher's message this morning that I don't understand." The mother said, "Oh? What is it?" The little girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. He said God is so big that He could hold the whole world in His hand. Is that true?" The mother replied, "Yes, that's true, honey." "But Mommy, he also said that God comes to live inside of us when we believe in Jesus as our Savior. Is that true, too?" Again, the mother assured the little girl that what the pastor had said was true. With a puzzled look on her face the little girl then asked, "If God is bigger than us and He lives in us, wouldn't He show through?" **That is what the beatitudes are about - God showing through.** (by Jerry Shirley from *When God Shows Through*)

Writer and professor and preacher Fred Craddock puts it this way: "Beatitudes need to be seen as **responses to God's favor rather than ways of earning God's favor**", i.e., the language of the beatitudes is descriptive language---- this is who these people are now, and this is what the future holds for them.

It is not the language of law but the language of hope and promise, that the way things are now is not the way they will always be.

On this day we read from the Beatitudes in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. As a new Moses, Jesus climbs the mountain to proclaim the meaning of God's call. The invitation is for all people to follow the qualities of blessedness that Jesus identifies: to be poor in spirit and become meek, to

hunger and thirst to see right done: To show pity to those in loss or pain and to seek to bring peace to quarreling neighbors, to endure patiently the hard road to justice and equality among all peoples.

These are the interior qualities that all of God's children are called to practice, and which bring us into the communion of all the saints.

Beatitude of a scholar kitty:

C. L. James in his delightful book, *To See a World in a Grain of Sand*, tells the fable of a wise old cat who notices a kitten chasing its tail. "Why are you chasing your tail?" said the wise old cat. The kitten replied, "I have learned that the best thing for a cat is happiness, and happiness is my tail. Therefore, I am chasing it, and when I catch it, I shall have happiness." The wise old cat responded, "My son, I, too, have paid attention to the problems of the universe. I too have judged that happiness is my tail. But, I noticed that whenever I chase after it, it keeps running away from me, but when I go about my business, it just seems to come after me wherever I go."

We do not find happiness in material things, in a pill, in a bottle, or by having love affairs. Happiness is something that comes from within us. The only truly happy life is a life lived with God as our life's Source and our true center.

Today's Gospel asserts that those who have recognized and acknowledged their dependence on God are the truly blessed and that these are the poor in spirit, the sorrowing, the lowly, those who hunger and thirst for holiness, the merciful, the single-hearted, the peace-makers and those persecuted for their right convictions. (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).