



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

FEBRUARY 16thth 2025

Based on Luke 6:17-26; In Search of Happiness



This week I was looking at short video of a bubble which was in very cold place. As I watched the bubble it slowly turned to ice because the air around it was so very cold. It reminded me of the wonderfully beautiful world that God created for us to live in. Even now when I think about it I get a big smile on my face. That event also reminded me of the time when I took my bubble machine to the Sunday School class that I was leading at the time and the huge smiles on their faces, the sounds of laughter and joy and vision of happiness that was experienced only lasted for the time it was happening.

I've seen children playing with bubbles in the garden at St Ninian's and I still smile with them enjoying their moment of happiness. Seeing them playing and trying to touch the bubbles before they burst is a lot of fun, but I've not seen any children touching the bubbles – they are always just beyond their reach and just as it touches the ground the bubble is gone.

This happens a lot to everyone today! A lot of us are chasing after happiness, but like the bubbles, happiness is always just out of reach. Or, when we think we have it, our bubble may burst. Can you think of some of the things that you think will make you happy, but when you've had it, it didn't make you as happy as you thought it would?

- ✚ Sometimes people think money will make you happy, but it doesn't always make you as happy as you thought it would. Once you spend it it's gone, and you aren't happy.
- ✚ Sometimes it's food that you think will make you happy. But that doesn't always work out well either.
- ✚ Sometimes it's IT and Devices that people think will make them happy. Often it does until the next updated model – then you're unhappy with it.
- ✚ Sometimes it's being popular at school where happiness is placed. Until peer pressure to conform to their ways happens and then it turns upside down. Happiness is here today and gone tomorrow.

Jesus knew that people often look for happiness in the wrong places. He even said we might be happier if we were poor, hungry, crying, and disliked by others. Why do you think he would say that kind of thing? When we are poor, we can trust in God to help us, instead of trying to do everything by ourselves. When we are spiritually hungry, Jesus will give what we need to grow our spirituality. When we are crying, we can trust that Jesus will be our comforter and hear our crying out to him. When we think we have no friends, Jesus is already our best friend, better than any other friend you could want because Jesus never leaves us.

We all want to happy, don't we? So don't spend your time chasing after bubbles as you look for happiness. Look only towards Jesus, because He is your true source of happiness.

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, help me to remember that I can never find happiness by wanting to find happiness in 'things' that are easily bought in the shop. Help me to understand that true happiness comes from loving and being like you are to everybody.

Amen

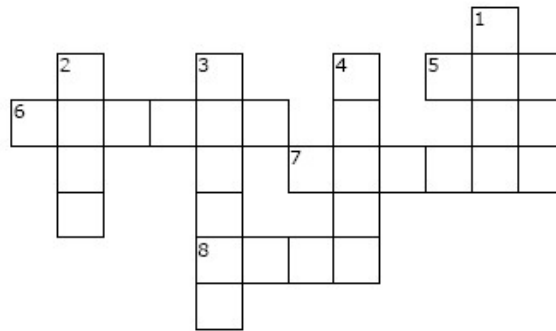


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The Sermon on the Plain

"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. Luke 6:23 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Luke 6:17-26 (NIV)



ACROSS

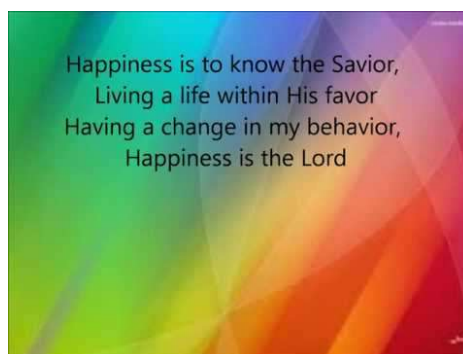
- 5. A feeling of great happiness
- 6. The home of God, the angels, and those who have been saved
- 7. To have a desire or need for food
- 8. Having a great amount of money

DOWN

- 1. Having very little money or few possessions
- 2. To shed tears
- 3. Something given or received in return for good behavior
- 4. The sound which expresses happiness or delight

joy	poor	rich	weep
reward	hungry	laugh	heaven

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_NSVqUJirE



JESUS IS YOUR TRUE SOURCE OF HAPPINESS

