

The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



February 9, 2020 Cycle A, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Volume V, Issue 11

Buried Treasures



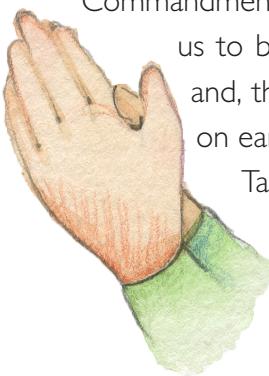
If it weren't for the Feast of the Presentation last week, we would have heard a different Gospel, the one that contains the Beatitudes. **'Beatitude'** means blessed or supreme happiness.

This word refers only to those things that bring us lasting and eternal happiness. So, while we will experience temporary happiness

Isaiah 58:7-10
Psalms 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
I Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

when we receive what we asked for on Christmas, when we become what the Beatitudes describe, we will be happy eternally.

The Beatitudes are amazing. They fulfill the Ten Commandments; they teach us what God wants us to become; they fill our deepest needs; and, they offer us a taste of heaven here on earth.



Take 10 minutes to read the Beatitudes as heard in the Gospel of Matthew (5:1-12). Using different words, describe what kind of person you think each Beatitude is describing.



Catholic I.D.

To become a good athlete, one must work the muscles needed for that sport. To become lastingly 'happy,' one must work the right muscles of the soul. The following actions help us cooperate with the grace of God to become blessed and happy members of God's family (Read Matthew 25:34-36 and see paragraph 2447 in your catechism.):

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead
- Give alms to the needy

Spiritual Works of Mercy

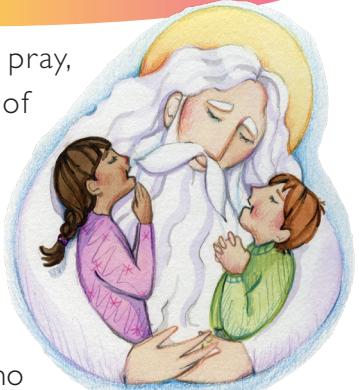
- Advise the sinner
- Instruct the unlearned
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living & dead

From Your Lips to God's Ear

Sometimes when we pray, Scripture can remind us of the answer God has already given us:

When I say, **"I'm not strong enough to do this, God!"** He says, "(You)

can do all things in Him who strengthens (you)" (Philippians 4:13). Or, when I pray, **"Father, I feel so alone,"** He responds, "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:20b). And even when I cry out, **"Dear God, I am so afraid!"** He reassures, "For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you'" (Isaiah 41:13).

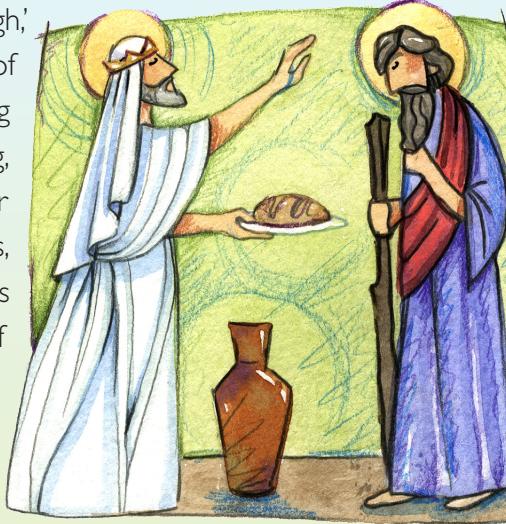


It's time we learn what God is saying to us.

Our Salvation History: God Calls Abram

The king of Salem, Melchizedek, was known as the 'priest of God Most High,' with a name that meant 'King of Righteousness.' This priest-king came out from **Salem** (meaning, peace) and blessed Abram for conquering the warring kings, giving Abram bread and wine. This "King of Righteousness, and King of Peace," Melchizedek, is a 'type' of a perfect king who would one day come. Do you know who this 'Perfect King' is?*

After this blessing, Abram returned home only to realize yet again that he had no children... yet. God heard Abram and, this time, came to him in a dream. He made a **covenant** with Abram and performed the ritual of covenants. This meant that,



more than mere promises, God entered into an eternal contract with Abram. It meant that promises would be fulfilled, making Abram and his family part of God's family. This covenant, like a marriage, joined and extended families.

Still childless, though, Sarai came up with a solution. She asked her house servant, Hagar, to have a child with Abram. Hagar agreed and had Abram's child. This did not go well. Sarai and Hagar argued. Hagar ran off until told by God's angel to return and obey Sarai. He reassured Hagar and told her to name her child, *Ishmael*, which means "God has heard." Abram was 86 years old and would soon see the promise fulfilled.

snsaf*

Tugboat Challenge

Draw yourself doing one of the **Corporal Works of Mercy** or **Spiritual Works of Mercy** listed in today's Catholic I.D.

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