

Sunday 1st November 2020 - All Saints Day

Our Gospel reading today is Matthew 5: 1-12, where we hear Jesus teach about The Beatitudes.

Jesus Gives the Beatitudes

Have you ever looked at the beatitudes as Be Attitudes? What kind of attitude should we have when life gets difficult? Jesus spells out this special message for each of us in the opening of his Sermon on the Mount.



After a night of prayer, Jesus selected his twelve disciples. He taught them how to live in the kingdom of heaven right here on earth. We can learn about his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. This sermon begins by telling us how to be happy and the rewards for being happy.

To find out what Jesus said, listen to the Gospel reading in our service or read Matthew 5: 1-12



Then try this activity:

BibleWise

Bee-Attitude Match

The beginning of each Beatitude is listed with a flower on the left. Each bee contains the second part of the Beatitudes. Help each bee find its flower. Draw a bee-line from the flower on the left to the correct bee on the right.

| | |
|---|--|
|  Blessed are the poor in spirit: | for they shall be comforted. |
|  Blessed are they that mourn: | for they shall see God. |
|  Blessed are the meek: | for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. |
|  Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: | for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. |
|  Blessed are the merciful: | for they shall be filled. |
|  Blessed are the pure in heart: | for they shall be called the children of God. |
|  Blessed are the peacemakers: | for they shall inherit the earth. |
|  Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: | for they shall obtain mercy. |

Copyright © 2018, BibleWise. All Rights Reserved.

You might like to try using Jesus's words to make a picture like this:



All Saints and Hallowe'en

Some people will be sorry they can't celebrate Hallowe'en as usual this weekend – but what has that got to do with All Saints Day?



Well, it has *everything* to do with All Saints' Day!

There's a lot of confusion around Hallowe'en and we might ask whether, as Christians, we should celebrate it?

The answer is "yes" – as long as it is All Hallows we are celebrating and not the secular, money-making event which can frighten people. The word "Hallowe'en" is short for "Hallow's Even" – the Eve of All Hallows. "All Hallows" is another way of saying "All Saints". "Hallowed" means "Holy". So, 31st October is the Eve of All Saints' Day, when the Church remembers those wonderful people who set a great example for us by the way they lived their lives in the light of Christ and by their love and care for others. All Saints' Day is a festival of goodness and light.

So why has Halloween developed into a time for all things ghostly and ghastly?

Part of the reason might be that, on 2nd November – the day after All Saints' Day – we commemorate All Souls' Day. This is the day in the year when we specially remember our own wonderful people – our family and friends who have lived and died. We tell their stories too, alongside those of the well-known saints, and recall that they, like the saints, have now passed through death to be closer to God. It reminds us that they are still very close to us. Some people say that this is a "thin" time of year, when we feel close to those who have died and remember that heaven and earth are very close.

This is all a mystery we can't fully understand from where we are now, and people often make up what they don't know. Some people use Hallowe'en as an excuse to talk about death as if it is frightening, rather than a natural part of the eternal life which Jesus promised us. Others make a lot of money from selling spooky costumes and decorations, many of which are very frightening – and a lot of people are very intimidated by "trick or treating" on Hallowe'en.

Jesus said "I am light for the world" and the saints we celebrate are people who have reflected the light of Jesus over the centuries since Jesus lived on earth. Jesus loved any excuse for a party, but he encouraged us to celebrate the light, not the darkness. Above all, when he died on the cross and rose again, he taught us that his love is stronger than anything, even than death. Hallowe'en gives us the opportunity to remember his "Superheroes" – the Saints – who shine with his love and light and who remind us that, with Jesus, good wins over bad every time.

So it's good to have fun at Hallowe'en – but let's concentrate on the things which light up the world and celebrate the Saints! It's what All Hallows' Eve was meant for!

If you have a pumpkin to carve, why not carve a cross instead of a scary face? Then put a torch or an LED light inside and pop it on a windowsill when it gets dark – to show that you are celebrating Jesus's light and love!

