

**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE**

**August 28, 2022**

**THE HOW OF HAPPINESS**

**8 PRINCIPLES FOR POWERFUL LIVING**

**“HAPPY ARE THE HARASSED”**

**Scripture: St. Matthew 5:1-10 (Common English Bible)**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> He taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

<sup>4</sup> “Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.”

<sup>5</sup> “Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.”

<sup>6</sup> “Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.”

<sup>7</sup> “Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.”

<sup>8</sup> “Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.”

<sup>9</sup> “Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children.”

<sup>10</sup> “Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

**~ SERMON NOTES ~**

**How can you be happy when you are being harassed? Is this principle of happiness practical or really possible? Yes! There are people who endure extreme suffering who emerge from the fire not unscathed, but certainly stronger.**

**Here is how people survive and thrive, and how you can too:**

**1. Stay \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus was saying much the same thing. You can choose to take a positive attitude toward persecution. In this, you can find triumph.

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**2. Be \_\_\_\_\_.**

It is vitally important to spiritually prepare ourselves with the “inner emergency” equipment before the crisis hits.

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**3. Continue to \_\_\_\_\_.**

Think of Joan of Arc, Martin Luther King Jr., Stephen, and the Apostle Paul. Even in the face of great persecution, they were strengthened beyond the ordinary, because they stood fast for what they believed.

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**4. Pardon those who \_\_\_\_\_.**

Is it impossible to forgive and move forward? Then start by following in the footsteps of Christ, and pray the prayer he prayed: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

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