

9/13/26

Blessed Are the Needy

WWJB: Who Would Jesus Bless?

Matthew 5:1-6

1. What does the word "blessing" mean to you? (It might be easier to give examples than to define it.)
2. The Greek word behind "blessed," makarios, can also be translated "happy." How does that add to or change your answer?
3. Which of the four blessings in the passage is hardest for you to accept as good news, and why?
4. Poor, mourning, meek, hungry — the sermon calls these "the needy." Where do you recognize yourself in that list right now?
5. Jesus says of the poor in spirit that theirs *is* the kingdom of heaven — present tense, not just future. Why does it matter that the blessing has already arrived rather than only being promised later?
6. Do you seek God mainly for what God gives you, or do you desire God for Godself? Does it matter?
7. The sermon says Jesus' love was received as offensive. Who are the people you find it hardest to picture Jesus offering blessing to?
8. To recognize our need is the first step toward grace. What need have you been reluctant to admit to God?
9. Where in your life is God inviting you to comfort someone who mourns, welcome someone who feels left out, or feed someone who hungers?
10. Name one concrete thing this week — perhaps GriefShare, Feed Springfield, the James Project, or someone down your own street — through which you could bless one of "the needy" this week.