

KINGDOM LIVING: Grace & Faith

As preached on Sunday, July 26th

Read: Matthew 5:1-6

1. We often say “God bless you!” when someone near us sneezes. Why? What are we meaning to communicate when we say that to them?
2. What types of people are these first four blessings speaking of? Just followers of Jesus? To a broader audience? To all people? (Explain)
3. Who are the poor in spirit? What does Jesus mean when he says that “*theirs is the kingdom of heaven*”? In what way does the kingdom belong to them?
4. Who are those who mourn? In what way do you believe they will be comforted? Now? Later?
5. Who are the meek? In what way will the meek inherit the earth? Will they receive the inheritance here and now or in the future?
6. Who are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness? What does that mean? What does Jesus mean when he says that they will be filled?
7. Have you ever fallen into one of these four categories? Did you receive God’s blessing? (explain)
8. If these Beatitudes aren’t directed only to Christians, how will others hear of them and be blessed by them? Mother Teresa once said, “*Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering, the lonely right there where you are.*” How might this encouragement fit together with our response to the Beatitudes?