

Seedling Group Questions for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany (February 17, 2019)

The sermon can be found at www.lipstosing.wordpress.com

Questions for Opening Up

How has someone helped you this week or done something for you that you couldn't do for yourself?

What unexpected blessing has God given you this week?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

We say in the creed, "I believe...in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting," but so much of popular culture's image of the afterlife is a spirit world. How has your conception of the afterlife evolved along your journey?

Paul says that if Christ is not raised and if we have hoped in him for this life only, we are most to be pitied. What would you say is at stake in our confession of a bodily resurrection?

Read Luke 6:17-26

The word "blessed" in the original Greek can also mean fortunate, happy, or privileged recipient of divine favor. How does Jesus' pronouncement upend your expectations of what it means to be blessed?

The Gospel according to Matthew includes Jesus' words of blessing (chapter 5) but does *not* include these corresponding "woes." How do you think Luke's message differs by virtue of this inclusion of woes?

Putting Things Together

Have you ever had the experience of purchasing something hoping it would bring happiness only to be disappointed? What was it that caught your eye? How did you feel after you bought it?

Is there anything specific or anyone in particular to which you think God may be calling you to share what you have? Perhaps someone who the world would never describe as "blessed"?

Making It Personal

Joseph suggests seeing Jesus' woes as words of caution, saying: "Jesus knows that it is so easy to get off the path of following him. With these woes he cautions against following our own way, of being misdirected by wealth or our own comfort, of being oblivious to our surroundings and the people around us." Besides Jesus words, what else helps you stay on the faithful path?