

Sermon Guide:

Luke 6:17-20

Takeaway:

We so much need _____.

From Nouwen:

“We want to help. We want to do something for people in need. We want to offer consolation to those who are in grief and alleviate the suffering of those who are in pain. There is obviously nothing wrong with that desire. It is a noble and grace-filled desire. But unless we realize that God’s blessing is coming to us from those we want to serve, our help will be short-lived, and eventually we may feel burned out.

“How is it possible to keep nursing the sick when they are not getting better? How can we keep consoling the dying when their deaths only bring us more grief? The answer is that they all hold a blessing, a blessing that each of us needs to receive. Caregiving is, finally, receiving God’s blessing from those to whom we give care. What is the blessing? It is a glimpse of the face of God ...

“We so much need a blessing.

“Those in need of our care are waiting to bless us.”

Henri Nouwen, A Spirituality of Caregiving (65-66)

For Reflection:

Who has loved you into loving and helped along the way?

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. *Introduction:* Who is someone who has smiled you into smiling, talked you into talking, sung you into singing, and loved you into loving? What makes them an extra special person in your life?
2. *Application:* What are some examples of blessings in your life? What are some similarities between our experiences of blessing?
3. *Scripture:* The crowds came looking to “hear [Jesus] and to be healed” (v.18). How charitably do you interpret their motivation?
4. *Scripture:* What might be the difference between being blessed and being happy? How does that impact the way we read v. 20?
5. *Application:* How might you respond to someone in a difficult situation who wants to know why God would do such a thing to them? What responses might be more harmful than helpful?
6. *Application:* How might it change our caregiving and other expressions of love if we see our actions as a chance to receive a blessing rather than to give one?
7. *Conclusion:* How can we pray for and support each other going forward?

Discussion Questions for Kids:

1. We all need God’s help. What might be some things you need God’s help for?
2. Sometimes, God helps us through other people. Who are some people who have helped you in your life?
3. *Pray:* Dear God, thank you for sending people to help me. Amen.