

10<sup>th</sup> Monday of Ordinary Time “Do You Feel Lucky”  
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After Elijah gives King Ahab the tough news that a famine was coming to discipline the people, the Lord told Elijah to go into hiding to a place where ravens would bring him bread and meat every morning and every evening. And that, my friends, is how Door Dash got started. (I had Door Dash last night so I thought I’d mention that.) However, what is profound here is that the purpose of the famine was for the people to grow in their appreciation of being fed on the word of God. So, in a sense, Elijah mirrors that message by going to a place where he is utterly dependent on God’s word, his promise, to provide what he needs to survive. One might call Elijah pretty lucky given what was going on in the kingdom at the time. Others may rightly call him blessed. It is fascinating that there is a Greek word being used in Matthew’s Gospel today that can be interpreted in either way, “blessed” or “lucky”.

The Gospel reading is of course called the beatitudes. It is Jesus’ recipe on how to live a beautiful life. People who are poor in spirit, which is to say, not attached or addicted to anything; people who mourn, which is only possible if you have a heart full of love; people who are meek which is to say they know the world does not revolve around them; people who hunger to do the right thing even if means being persecuted for it; people who know how to be merciful, have clean hearts, and are peacemakers...these kind of people live beautiful lives. We all know people like that who reflect these elements in their lives, and it makes them beautiful.

The Greek word being used for the word “blessed” is “Makarios”. What I like about that word is that it certainly can and does mean “blessed”, but it also means “fortunate”. This second definition allows us to read the beatitudes in a new way; like, lucky are you when you are not attached to anything. Lucky are you when you understand the world does not revolve around you. Lucky are you when you hunger to do the right thing. Lucky are you when you put your relationship with God first in all things.

And so, a question for our meditation today could be...and, at the risk of channeling a little Clint Eastwood this morning, “Do you feel lucky?” How do our lives stack up to the beatitudes? What are the areas in our lives that we simply need to trust in God’s word and his promise to us. All of this begins of course with Jesus, who shows us what a beautiful life looks like. And so, perhaps we can ask ourselves, what does a beautiful life look like for me today?