

## Reflecting on Last Week's Question

What kinds of losses - big and small - have shaped your life?

Thank you to everyone who such meaningful offered responses to last week's question, which helped us think about "blessed are those who mourn."

One of the participants in our writing class shared these poignant thoughts about his life's story.

"Wow, it seems as if, since turning 13, my life is mainly characterized with losses. The biggest being the loss of my family in war, aunts and uncles... cousins and countless friends. The second was leaving my homeland. At first it didn't feel like loss, because I was little and excited to see the world. But retrospectively, I see that I lost part of my identity and lived in five countries trying to create a new one. My third was getting suspended in college because I chose frat parties over my studies. I kept thinking I had all the time in the world, but things come up and before you know it, a decade has gone by, and you never went back to school. My drinking has caused me to lose really good jobs, relationships, and having a proper good family instead of having kids with some chick I was drinking with. I lost my opportunity to really be a great father to my kids because I was just consumed with my own issues that I wasn't dealing with and failed to take care of business. I have lost a lot... but as long as I don't lose or abandon all HOPE, there will be joy in the morning."

## Where Brokenness Meets Blessing

LENT WITH THE ROOM IN THE INN COMMUNITY



**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

MATTHEW 5:5

# Strong Enough to Kneel

There is a photo we have used over and over to tell the story of Room In The Inn's weekly foot clinic. This picture of a kindly looking man meticulously caring for a woman's feet was taken before our current facility was opened, but we continue to choose it to represent the depth of our spirituality.

Willie Majors, the man in this photo, devoted years of volunteer service to Room In The Inn. His small stature, quiet voice, and gentle manner were a dependable presence as vans were being loaded for our shelter program, as people sought refuge in our day center, and, in his later years, at our foot clinic.

Willie's presence brought a sense of peace. He had a quiet voice but never needed a microphone. He led with presence, consistency, and with hands that were steady and kind. Willie chose a posture close to the ground. He knelt. He washed. He listened. He was meek.

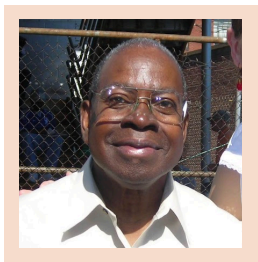
**Meekness is not weakness. It is strength disciplined by love.** It is the decision to use whatever power you have not to elevate yourself but to lift others up.

The foot clinic photo still speaks to us because it captures something we often forget: the kingdom of heaven does not advance through dominance. It grows through kneeling. It does not grow through force, but through faithful, gentle service.

Blessed are the meek – the ones who do not grasp for power, who do not insist on their own way, who trust that God sees what others overlook.

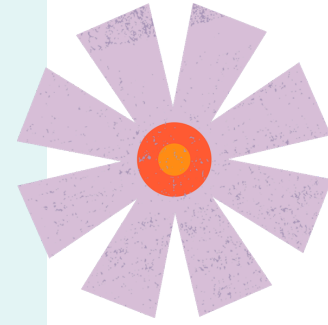
They shall inherit the earth – because they are already living as if it belongs to God.

*Willie Majors, who died in 2017 at the age of 81, was a retired ER nurse technician, faithful member of John Wesley United Methodist Church, and dedicated Room In The Inn volunteer. His legacy of humble service lives on.*



**"Happy are the meek" runs counter to almost everything we believe and practice in daily life.** We think happiness is found in the display of power; Jesus taught that happiness is found in the restraint of whatever power we may have.

J. Edward Kalas



## Putting Love In Action

Sometimes the hardest thing is to accept help. **This week, say yes when you have an opportunity to receive kindness from someone else.**

What could this look like? Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- If you are part of the Campus community at Room In The Inn, sign up to receive care in the foot clinic. (We're adding hand massages this week!)
- Say yes if someone offers you a drink or some food.
- Be honest when someone asks how you are doing.
- Reach out to someone you trust to let them know what has been difficult lately. Allow them to share the burden.
- When someone asks how they can help, give them an assignment.

### Question of the Week

## Who is someone who shows both strength and humility?



On Holy Thursday, April 2, we will hold a worship service at 10:30 A.M. with communion and a simple foot clinic. This is the day when volunteers get their feet washed, too.