



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

DOXA CHURCH

FLOURISHING ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

Read Matthew 5:4

This passage tells us that there is a kind of mourning that can be a positive force in our lives. That flourishing, and the things we all want, are on the *other side* of this kind of mourning. This is a problem because we want to go around hard things, not through them. Give me the path of least resistance, right? I use the Waze App on my phone to take me around the traffic jam, not into the heart of it.

This passage is discussing a *spiritual* mourning with physical ramifications. The Beatitudes are going to continue to cut open spiritual issues that affect our lives in incredibly tangible ways. As is often the case, Jesus has a wide concept for us and we tend to like things narrow and neat and tidy. This passage is not exclusively or even primarily about the loss of a loved one. Though it certainly speaks to that kind of mourning, its casts a bigger net than that.

In spiritual mourning, God meets a spiritual need.

Until we come to grips with our need, Christianity will not make sense to us. Community will never be worth it. Statements like “blessed are the poor in spirit, or “blessed are those who mourn” will never land quite right with you. In fact, living in Seattle and having our physical needs met actually clouds our ability to see our spiritual needs.

In order for us to spiritually mourn (and experience the comfort of the Kingdom), **we must recognize fallenness inside and outside of us, and the consequences, losses, and pain that it brings.** The comfort of the world encourages us to avoid hardship, prevents our growth, and makes us tiresome to others. The comfort of the kingdom brings strength, healing, and clarity. We can mourn because the comfort of the kingdom beats the comfort of the world.

DISCUSS

1. What are some ways in which you have settled for the comfort of the world? (avoidance, distancing yourself from painful things, trying to move forward without addressing a painful past, etc)

2. Of the three things listed below about the comfort of the kingdom, which one means the most to you?

The comfort of the Kingdom brings strength.

The comfort of the Kingdom brings healing.

The comfort of the Kingdom brings clarity.

Why? What would you like to see God do through the comfort of the kingdom in your life?

3. The action steps I provided for enjoying the comfort of the kingdom were to:

a. Trust God at His word

b. List the losses you have experienced, and begin to work through them in community.

c. Remember that Christians are guaranteed to experience loss.

Which of these seems easiest for you? Why? Which one(s) seem scary or challenging? Why? What do you need from God to have the courage to do these things?

PRAY

We need the courage to walk this out God. Jesus is with us, alongside us, but we have to decide that He is worth it. We need Him to help us recognize the fallenness inside and outside of us, and the consequences, losses, and pain we have felt.

Pray for God to recall one area of your past that needs to be revisited for healing and mourning. Write it down, and commit to discussing it with your community, a Doxa journey group, or professional Christian counselor.