

HOW? : Sermon on the Mount | 3/1/2020

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Reflection Focus:

Disciples follow Jesus by entering fully into mourning what isn't, that Christ can resurrect the death in our lives, relationships, hopes, and faith.

Passage: Matthew 5:4:

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Supporting Passages/Ideas:

Isaiah 53:1-6 (ESV): *The coming messiah (Jesus) was a man of sorrows, who choose to embrace and be "acquainted with grief".*

53 Who has believed what he has heard from us?^[a]
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected^[b] by men,
a man of sorrows^[c] and acquainted with^[d] grief;^[e]
and as one from whom men hide their faces^[f]
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

John 12:20-36: (NIV) *Jesus demonstrated how we cannot produce life unless we first give it. A seed must "fall to the ground" before it can germinate in to new life.*

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up[g] from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION FOR YOU & YOUR ASC SMALL GROUP

1. **(Matthew 5:4):** What do you find most comforting when you are lonely, discouraged, or otherwise in despair? What makes that thing/action/person so comforting?
2. **(Matthew 5:4):** Name a few cultural aspects or experiences in 1st century Judea for which Jesus mourned that which was not so. How do the things for which Jesus mourned inform the things we are to mourn today? What are things you think Jesus would mourn today?
3. **(Isaiah 53:1-6):** Whose pain or grief do you find it most tempting to ignore or disassociate yourself from? How can you be more attentive and present to others' pain?
4. **(John 12:23-36):** What does the nature of Jesus' death teach us about how we are to embrace grief and suffering as a means to finding new life for ourselves and others?

APPLICATION (NEXT STEPS THIS WEEK)

- 1) Choose to enter in to the painful but necessary step of embracing the process of mourning of something or someone in your life. Step honestly in to the pain before God, and see if God will comfort you in your courage to do so.
- 2) Continue or begin memorizing the *Sermon on the Mount* starting with the last three week's passages (Matt 5:1-4)