



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

DOXA CHURCH

FLOURISHING ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Read Matthew 5:1-3

Jesus shares his most famous message on a mountain. This would bring every Jew back to the time when Moses met with God on Mt. Sinai to receive his instructions for how God wanted his people to live. They were meant to be a people who display what God is like in their actions and show what true humanity living under God's reign as their King can be like. Jesus is now both the revelation of who God is and the fulfillment for how humans are meant to live. The message he is going to deliver is a call to what life is meant to be like as humans who truly flourish under God's authority.

The word *blessed* could also be translated flourishing. In this first part we hear: *Flourishing are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God.* Jesus is saying that life that is truly human is one that is fully aware of our need for God. The good news of Jesus' message is that God is not calling us to get our act together spiritually. Jesus is calling us to acknowledge that we are spiritually in need of God pouring out the riches of his kingdom blessings into our lives. To be a human who is flourishing starts with us being aware of and acknowledging our need for God to pour spiritual riches into our lives.

The means by which God does this is Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote to a church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 8:9) *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.* Jesus was the perfect flourishing human who went to the cross for our sin. He was spiritually rich but became spiritually poor at the cross when he took our sin on himself. He did this so we who were spiritually poor might be forgiven and become spiritual rich. 2 Corinthians 5:21 states: *For our sake he (God) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

The flourishing life realizes our spiritual need. Sees Jesus as the one who meets our need. Confesses how Jesus meets the need and invites him to pour out his spiritual blessing to meet the need.

DISCUSS

According to Jesus, human flourishing starts with acknowledging our spiritual poverty - our weakness, our brokenness - our need for God. How is this different than the message we often hear around us?

What is your response to the idea that God wants us to start with our spiritual need not our spiritual performance?

Where do you feel spiritually poor?

Read Ephesians 1:15-23. What spiritual riches or power do you need to address your spiritual poverty?

How is Jesus the spiritual riches for our specific spiritual poverty? For example, your spiritual poverty might be your impatience with people. God has been patient with you in not treating you as your sins deserve and not giving up on you no matter how often you fail him. He is so patient with you that Jesus endured suffering on a cross for your sins to offer you forgiveness. And Jesus is presently praying to God the Father on your behalf so God is patient with you.

Lastly, take some time to pray together or silently using this template: Acknowledge your spiritual poverty in a particular way - state how Jesus is the spiritual riches of God for that poverty - ask him to forgive you and then pour out his spiritual riches by his Spirit into your life. Using the example of impatience: *God, I am impatient with people and Jesus is patient with me. Forgive me for not being like you in how I treat others. Jesus be for me patience for others. Jesus you are rich in patience. Make me, with the help of your Spirit, patient like you.*