**4-21-2018**

**Discussion Guide**

**Change of View: Loss**

Who comes to mind when you think of spiritual growth?

What do you see in them that makes you think of growth?

What is the link between how we think and how we live and love?

In the last two messages we’ve established that spiritual transformation begins with changes in our thinking. What are the voices that shape the way we think?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17**

What is Paul saying about scripture? Why is he writing it down so explicitly?

How does this fit with Romans 12:2?

If we didn’t have the Bible, how would following Jesus change?

How has Scripture reshaped your thinking? (examples)

Why does experience and observation require scripture for interpretation?

What do you think it means to learn to think “biblically” as you experience life?

**The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)**

Doug showed a video of Mount Arbel (Air-bell). How is it helpful to see a place?

This is where Matthew was probably thinking of as he recorded these teachings of Jesus.

Doug said the beatitudes imply and “As you follow me…” context. How does this change how we understand the beatitudes? Why is this helpful?

**Matthew 5:4**

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Doug spoke of three mourning experiences.

1. Mourning for Loss in our personal world
2. Mourning for our sin.
3. Mourning for the things that cause God to mourn.

Talk about each one and share how different members of the group have experienced each.

**Personal Mourning**

What is it? When does it occur? Is grief the same as mourning?

**Read Revelation 21:1-5**

What difference does it make to know and believe the content of these verses?

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13**

What is Paul reminding his hurting brothers and sisters of?

What do you think it means to grieve with no hope?

Is it wrong to grieve?

**Mourning over My Sin**

What is it like to mourn our sin?

**Read Psalm 32** – Describe the journey the author took?

How do these verses relate?

How do we avoid becoming casual about our sin and yet avoid living guilt ridden lives of self-flagellation for our sin?

**Read James 4:8-10**

Do you think this is written to follower of Jesus or to those who are not following Jesus yet?

What is the danger of ignoring sin because we are forgiven?

What is the danger of taking our sin seriously with a sense of mourning?

**Mourning with God**

(learning to care, love and mourn what God cares, loves and mourns)

Review the Zacchaeus encounter with Jesus. (Luke 19:1-7)

Why was the crowd so upset about Jesus eating and reaching out to Zacchaeus?

What crowd correction was implicit to Jesus’ response in Luke 19:9-10?

**God’s Comfort and Leading for each Mourning**

Why would God remind us that our personal mourning will not last?

Why would God remind us in our mourning over our own sin that we are forgiven?

Why would God tell us that “we are ready” when we care, love and mourn for the things that God cares, loves and mourns?

**What is your biggest reminder or takeaway from this message?**

**Is there something you need to do? Pray for? Stop doing?**