

HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

YEAR 1, 1st Sunday of Lent/YEAR 3, 1st Sunday of Lent

Prompt the group by asking them to find the beatitude, "Happy are they who mourn, for they will be comforted." while watching scenes from the [Dorothy Day Story](#) starting at 1:30:55-1:44:40 ("Dorothy, we're having a meeting."-"May the Lord be with you.") This takes 15 minutes.

After watching, read Psalm 126:5-6 aloud to the group: "Those who sow in tears will reap with rejoicing. They go out full of tears carrying seed for the sowing. They come back full of joy carrying their sheaves."

Explain that only by confronting sin can we overcome it and Dorothy Day definitely confronted the sources and effects of sin. Briefly introduce the group to Dorothy Day. Explain that Jesus tells us that only by meeting and getting to know sin (that which injures, destroys, harasses and mocks life) and juxtaposing it with God's love can we break down its barriers and redeem the injury it causes. We have to learn what Love looks like, who He really is and how far humanity really keeps from Him in order to experience true mourning and sorrow over sin. The first step is meeting our own sin. Noticing our own disinterest or hatred of love causes a lot of pain and reason to mourn. Only after we meet this evil, can we then ask God to take it from us and replace it with His Spirit of life and love. We cannot ask forgiveness if we are unaware that we are in need of it. Only after participating in the passion and death, for utter rejection of sin, can we experience the new life and the resurrection. We are called to be instruments of love and therefore reap the rewards of loving others: any easy yoke (Mt 11:30), joy (Mt 5:3-12), and many good gifts (Lk 6:37-38).

Wrap up the lesson by reading aloud Luke 6:37-38 Jesus said, "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Ask the group to share their personal feelings and reactions. Ask, "How does it personally touch, relate or speak to you?" Then ask, "How does Dorothy Day's story promotes courage and hope?" "How do you see Christ in Dorothy Day? How can you compare the two?" After the group has answered, emphasize how Christ confronted sin and how his sorrow and pain became opportunity for our healing and our resurrection, for great comfort and joy. (i.e. the widow Lk 7:11-17, and the way of the cross Jn 18:1-21:25)