

Sunday Plus | SOTM Week 2: Show Notes

Josh: You began with a photo from a class @ Yale University in 2018. Why did this stand out to you? What can we learn from it?

Dustin: Even in the elite Ivy Leagues, the brightest of the bright, want to know how to flourish. Flourishing matters. It is a core question that flows of the human of the heart. How do I get the most out of this life? I also was particularly drawn to the human systemization of what leads to flourishing. Ultimately, I am struck that flourishing is internal not external. It is not a quick fix.

Josh: You mentioned a quote from C.S. Lewis. What's he saying there? Why is this significant?

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." — C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 136–137.

Dustin: Well, just to give credit to you, Josh—you're the one who showed me that quote. I think it's a great quote that shows us how easily we can lose sight that we were born into a broken world. The perfect world God created has been fractured. Ultimately, we were created for something greater. Something that satisfies our souls and deep heart longings that temporary/cheap substitutes cannot. Our hearts are meant to belong to a rule and reign led by an eternal King.

Josh: The Beatitudes—you said these are "the values of Jesus kingdom"? Unpack that phrase for us.

Dustin: Jesus is not saying that you will be blessed if you go mourn or go be humble real quick. Ultimately, Jesus has a mission to "*free the captive and heal the brokenhearted*" and the way that happens is by living a certain way. Jesus embodies the character and internal profile of someone who belongs to his rule and reign.

The Beatitudes show what the Kingdom person values and what spills out of the life of someone who is being transformed by Jesus. We flourish when we come to the end of ourself, mourn, live humbly, hunger and thirst for righteousness, be pure in heart, be peacemakers, embrace suffering.

Jesus *is* the Beatitudes. He practiced what he preaches in the Sermon on the Mount. We are called to become more like Him as we seek out his upside-down countercultural Kingdom.

Josh: You said these Beatitudes—these values of the Kingdom—are inward characteristics. Practically speaking, how do we adopt these values at an internal level?

Dustin: I think one of the easiest things we can do is self assess and pray. Specifically, read through the Beatitudes and use them as a tool to assess our own hearts.

Josh: So, for example, "Father, show me where I am not poor in spirit...show me where I am not merciful..." Something like that?

Dustin: Exactly. I think it's helpful even to look through those verses and ask yourself which one makes you the most uncomfortable. If any of those verses stick with you, there's a reason why and it's probably worth praying about.

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Josh: You began with Isaiah 61 and I want to end there. You said this was Jesus' mission statement. What are some practical things you would suggest people begin doing to make Jesus' mission their own?

The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn. — Isaiah 61:1–2 CSB

Dustin: The fact is, we've been given the opportunity to partner with Jesus in His mission. Who in your life needs freedom from captivity? Who needs to be healed internally? Who needs good news? Who needs comfort? Pray for people. Bring in. Build up. Send out.

Josh: Thanks, Dustin. You know, three things have stood out to me in today's show: Values, Mission, and Kingdom. I think what Jesus is teaching us in the Sermon on the Mount is that we have an opportunity to embrace His values, join Him in His mission, and work to advance His Kingdom.

Dustin: That's exactly right.