

## Sermon Discussion Questions

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 9, 11

1. In his book *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, pastor John Mark Comer suggests that one of the key tasks of our apprenticeship to Jesus is living into both our potential and our limitations and that healthy margin is the space between our load and our limits. Do you see your limitations as blessings or curses? Have you ever changed your perspectives on your limitations in a different season of life?
2. What way of praying do you feel is most lifegiving for you at this stage of life? Has that always been the case or has it changed for you?
3. Not only do we need to let the light into our hearts, our minds, and our souls, but perhaps we also need to look along the light. Isaiah 9 and 11 give some images of a future reality that is coming in the person of Jesus. This kingdom is a kingdom of peace, righteousness, presence, joy, light, equity and faithfulness. Where do you see signs of this kingdom around us now? Where have you had the opportunity to join in and be a part of this kingdom lately by aligning yourself with its light?
4. As a result of this message and the scripture, do you sense that Jesus might be asking you to do anything? Is there a particular place or relationship Jesus might be asking you to be attentive to? Is there a different rhythm or pace of life that you think Jesus may be inviting you into?
5. Andrew introduced another way of praying with scripture this morning. It simply works by taking a verse or two from the passage you are reading and slowing down. Perhaps sitting with a question from it. Or perhaps its imaging reading these couple of verses in the presence of Jesus and talking with him about it.

You can try this with a lot of different parts of scripture. A good place to begin is the psalms, or the words of Jesus, or some of the prophets. Try it again from Isaiah 9 and 11. Read a couple of lines, then pause, breathe, listen, ask questions, write, be present, and then move on to the next few verses. The goal is simply to be with Jesus, to talk with him, to listen to him while reading the scripture.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned...

*Where have you experienced light in the darkness these past few weeks?*

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy. They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest

*Where have you had glimpses of joy in this season?*

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.

*Where have you felt the LORD'S presence with you?*

The yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning will be fuel for the fire

*Where are the conflicts, wars, violence you long to see met by the peace of Jesus?*

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever

*Where do you long to see justice?*

*Where do you long to see God's kingdom made visible?*