

Fully Alive - experiencing the Good Life *according to Jesus*

study #1

reflecting on Sunday's teaching ::

As we think back to Sunday's teaching, what stands out for you? Was there something that hit home, challenged, or encouraged you? What questions are you left with and what do you need to do with them? (By sharing your thoughts out loud and with others, you can deepen what you've learned.)

Considering our Experience of the Sermon on the Mount ::

- Early in Scott's message, he shared a statement by Irenaeus, bishop of Greece in the 2nd Century, who said, "*The Glory of God is man/humanity fully alive.*"
 - Take this to heart... Unpack this together... How do you respond to this? What does this stir in you? How does this relate to what we often think brings God glory?
- Share together your general sense of the Sermon on the Mount...
 - How would you describe what it is all about?
 - Do you consider it a unified whole, or just a collection of teachings – and what difference does this make?
 - How does the prospect of spending the coming season in the Sermon the Mount feel for you? Does it sound boring and unnecessary (overly familiar)? Or something you feel you might need? Explain...
- In his message, Scott talked about how, apart from the reality of the gospel, the Sermon on the Mount is often experienced as "*frustrating idealism or oppressive legalism*". How have we experienced either of these in reference to what Jesus commands in the Sermon?
- How did/does hearing Jesus' announcement of the Gospel – *the Kingdom of God is at hand* - impact your posture toward Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount?
 - Is there a specific part that you sense God inviting you to take to heart in a fresh way? If you are willing, share what and why to the group...
- What portions of the Sermon on the Mount have been most significant for our own journey of discipleship? How and why?
- What portions of the Sermon on the Mount have most often confounded us? How and why?
- What are we longing for as we enter into this study together? What do we sense God is desiring for us?

PRAY together :: for God to meet us all in this study, and for grace to receive all God wants for us in the teaching of Jesus.