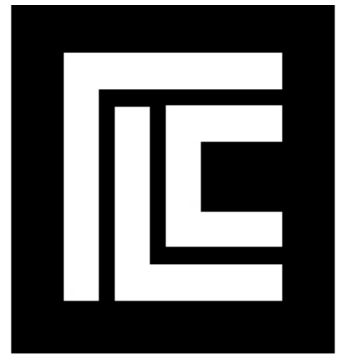


Deeper: Change for the frustrated, exhausted, and those on the brink

October 22, 2023

Matthew 7:7-8 (Chapter 7 of *Deeper*)



On Sunday we reflected on the reality of suffering in our world. The school of suffering is one that none of us can avoid and one that God uses to change and mature us. We have a choice: to trust in the darkness, to trust that God, that God is present in our suffering, and that God will make all things new.

Getting Started

Toran suggested that there were three groups of people in the room on Sunday: (1) folks who are in the raw place of suffering currently, (2) folks who have experienced a fair amount of suffering in the past, and (3) folks who have yet to experience suffering, but will. Which group would you say you identified with most?

Read

Matthew 7:7-8 (Chapter 7 of *Deeper*)

Digging Deeper

- On Sunday, Toran began the message by sharing a story about a woman named Jenna. How did this story hit you? What are some of the conversations you find yourself having with God when you reflect on situations like these?
- From the passage above, we learned that the verbs ‘ask’, ‘seek’, and ‘knock’ are written in the present imperative. This means they are ongoing actions—keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking. What stuck out to you about this passage and it’s unpacking from the message? Does this impact your personal prayer life? How?
- In chapter 7 of *Deeper* (p.127; 133), Dane Ortlund acknowledges the overwhelming existence of pain and the way God uses it in our lives. Read the quote below. Has this been true for your life? How have you responded to the pain in your life so far?
- You cannot go deep in your walk with Jesus without walking with Jesus through deep waters in your life. Has this been true for you?

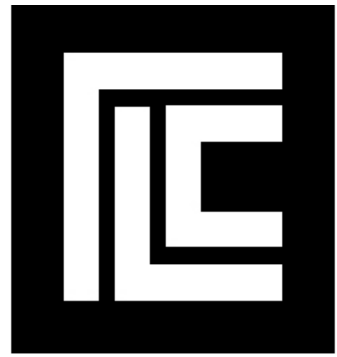


THE LOCAL CHURCH

Deeper: Change for the frustrated, exhausted, and those on the brink

October 22, 2023

Matthew 7:7-8 (Chapter 7 of *Deeper*)



“Pain is not the islands of our lives but the ocean; disappointment or letdown is the stage on which all of life unfolds, not an occasional blip on an otherwise comfortable and smooth life.” (127)

“If you want to be a solid, weighty, radiant old man or woman someday, let the pain in your life force you to believe your own theology. Let it propel you into deeper fellowship with Christ than ever before. Don’t let your heart dry up. He is in your pain. He is refining you...God loves us too much to let us remain shallow. How frothy and facile we would be if we lived all of life without pain. Your tears are his tools.” (133)



THE LOCAL CHURCH