

Teachings of Jesus Blessed Are They That Mourn Matthew 5:4

Introduction

What the people heard in the Sermon on the Mount was a message on how to live. It was ethical teaching on life according to the Creator of life. It was teaching about the right kind of Kingdom. It was the King of the ages declaring what His Kingdom is all about. It was not political rhetoric or the gospel of materialism. Jesus emphasized the spiritual agenda of an everlasting kingdom. That kingdom - the Kingdom of Heaven - had come!

It was no longer a future hope it was now a present reality. The Kingdom of Heaven had invaded the ordinary kingdoms of this world and would sweep the globe with life-transforming power. It was a kingdom of love. It was kingdom of the heart. It was a kingdom of virtue and ethics that motivated a daily living that honors God.

Jesus trained his disciples in this message. He wanted them to carry it to others. It was a message that had a significant impact on the early church. It was far more than a creed they recited or laws they observed. It was deep and holy conviction that knowing Jesus would transform any life. It was a teaching based on fact and experience.

The first part of the Sermon on the Mount is known as the Beatitudes which means "The Blessings". It addresses the character of kingdom citizens. They teach what the attitude of a believer should be. That's why they are often called the "be - attitudes". The attitude of being rather than just doing. So let's read them together from Matthew Chapter 5: (Read)

These character traits are marks of kingdom living. They are goals for all Christians. It is our privilege responsibility to desire each one of these spiritual attributes. It is our heavenly nature to display these traits and demonstrate the character of Christ as kingdom citizens. If we are humble and appreciate that all of our gifts and blessings come from God, we grow in love and gratitude for Jesus Christ our Savior.

When we realize how much God has sacrificed and loved us, it produces a mourning and regret for our sinfulness as well as the sins of the whole world, for we know we have hurt the one who has been so good to us.

I. The Mourners

Since a person cannot come to Christ unless the Holy Spirit calls to them and softens their heart, the poor in spirit are those who have already acknowledged their need for God. Those who recognize their own sinfulness and helplessness before God naturally mourn their own depravity.

a. Mourning our sinfulness

This mourning is not a general sadness or grief over the loss of a loved one. It is a strong mental anguish and repulsion that results from realizing your own wickedness. It is recognizing that if we received what we deserved we would be eternally banned from God's goodness. A righteous person doesn't wallow in carnal and self-centered depression, but they do lament their sins because he cares about what God thinks. When we begin to see sin for what it really is, we start to see how our wickedness has offended this holy God.

A person may regret their sinful deeds because they got caught, but that doesn't guarantee they identify with the destructive nature of their sinfulness. God cannot comfort false mourners, because Christ is referring to a kind of sorrow that comes from true repentance and humility, and not the kind that comes from false piety and personal frustrations.

2 Corinthians 7:10 says, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." Paul exclaims, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24). When you hear the call of the Spirit you will immediately recognize how desperately sinful you are! You will experience the shame and guilt of your sinfulness in contrast to the holiness of a God who is sinless. And you will fall before Him to beg his mercy and forgiveness. That is the response of those who genuinely mourn their own sinfulness.

But true believers also mourn over that which dishonors God.

b. Mourning what dishonors God

The closer we get to God the more we will mourn over all that dishonors Him. In a world where the spirit of the antichrist has been gaining momentum for over 2000 years, a believer's heart is constantly grieved by the attitudes and behaviors of unbelievers. But not only that, we grieve because this spirit has crept into the church and continues to corrupt those who have been of like precious faith! It is a tragic thing to hear of someone who has fallen into sin and brought dishonor and reproach upon themselves and the kingdom. We grieve for those who have fallen. We do not gloat

over their demise nor spread gossip about their plight because 'but for the grace of God - there go I!' The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10:12 "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall." What are you doing that you shouldn't be doing? We are citizens of heaven and we ought to act like it!

c. Mourning for the lost

As citizens of heaven we also realize how desperately lost our friends and family members are who do not know Christ. Realizing how terrible it will be to be eternally separated from them, we begin to mourn and intercede for them. We cannot bear the thought of them being resigned to eternal torment. The unbearable sorrow moves us to plead with them and plead with God to intervene and bring them to the hope of salvation.

This mourning extends to even those who don't even know. We find ourselves becoming more and more like those early believers who went everywhere presenting and preaching the gospel - hoping to rescue even a few lost souls! Listen to Paul as he writes to the Roman believers in Chapter 15; "I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there. ²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. ²⁸So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this fruit, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

Paul was driven by the great desire to see people come to know Christ. In Chapter 5 verse 11 he told the Corinthians, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." Paul had once been a persecutor of the church and an enemy of Christ. But when he came to realize how wrong and sinful he was he threw himself upon the mercy of God. And he told the Galatians that he now preached the faith which once he destroyed.

Those who mourn over their sin are promised comfort. God allows grief into our lives as a path to His comfort. Those who mourn learn something special about the fellowship of His sufferings (Philippians 3:10). We feel closeness to the Man of Sorrows who was acquainted with grief (Isaiah 53:3).

II. Comforted

The words "they shall be comforted" cause us to reach beyond ourselves to a source of strength and help that is greater than all our sin. Though we recognize there is no excuse for our sinfulness and failures, in mourning we confess them to God and He comforts us with the assurance that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son that cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

And even though we have dishonored God by our poor attitudes and un-Christ like behavior, we accept the comfort that God offers to us because of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

a. Comforted by Christ

Because of Christ we have the great gift of salvation - our sins are blotted out. Our faith says that we do not mourn alone because we have a savior who knows our grief and stands with us. The hope for those who mourn is Jesus. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He came into this world to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to save me! He came to save you!

And as we maintain an attitude of mourning over sin, God continues to comfort us with His forgiveness and presence in our lives. But not only does Christ comfort us by giving us saving faith, He also sends the Holy Spirit to comfort us.

b. Comforted by the Holy Spirit

The Greek word for Comforter is "parakletos". The most familiar translation of this Greek word is "Comforter." The Holy Spirit is also a Counselor or Advocate for us in a legal sense. Jesus said in John 14:15-17: "If you love me you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Comforter to be with you forever - the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him for he lives with you and will be in you." In verses 25 and 26 he says, "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

In John 15:26 he says, "When the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me." And in John 16 verses 7 and 8 he says, "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he

comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...."

And finally in John 16:13-15 Jesus says, "But when he, the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own, he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."

Jesus spoke to his disciples about the Comforter and said that the Comforter was the Holy Spirit. Believers who mourn are comforted even now by the Divine Comforter. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). During the long night of His absence, believers have been called to fellowship in His sufferings - fellowship with Him who was the Man of Sorrows. But Romans 8:17 reminds us, "If... we suffer with Him.., we shall also be glorified together".

Paul tells Timothy, "If we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him." The Holy Spirit is here to encourage and comfort us every day. And He teaches us to follow his example.

c. Comforted by the saints

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians Chapter One, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. ⁶But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; ⁷and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort."

As the servants of Christ we are to be encouragers! The ministry of encouragement and reconciliation has been committed to us by Christ. Are the words you speak encouraging words or discouraging words? Do you speak the words of life from the precious promises of the Word or do you simply offer your own opinion about things? Jesus said those who mourn shall be comforted.

God uses ordinary people like us to make a difference in the lives of others.

Paul writes about his own experience of comfort and encouragement by Philemon in Chapter 1: ⁴I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints; ⁶and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake. ⁷For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Who is God leading you to be a blessing to? Has God been placing a burden on your heart for someone? Have you told them? Many times it's important to let people know you've been praying for them - they may need to hear those words of encouragement! God does not hide his blessing from us! He freely distributes his encouragement and grace to us.

III. The Blessing of Mourners

In Matthew Chapter 25 Jesus teaches about those who really get the teaching on the Kingdom of Heaven. And he says, "Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are **blessed** by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Jesus taught that we can all develop the right attitude. The blessing Jesus is talking about is the blessing of God's love and grace that rescues and delivers us from the horrible fate of eternal death. It is the blessing that caused the Apostle Paul to say, "For me to live, is Christ and to die is gain." It is the blessing that removes the fear of death and reassures us of the blessed hope we have in Christ. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5) Then all "sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10). And the fulfillment of the words from the great heavenly voice in Revelation 21:3, 4: Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Heaven stands to applaud the one who kneels to confess their sins before God! And God says, Well done, thou good and faithful servant enter into the joy of the Lord! Paul tells the Ephesians, "Blessed be the God and Father of

our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

God wants to give you the full measure of his blessing! But it is only safe for him to do so as we begin to understand the magnitude of his greatness and holiness in contrast to how sinful and undeserving we are of His blessing. Those who pour their lives out with tears and anguish over the sinfulness of fallen humanity will be comforted. Psalms 126:5 says, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

Conclusion

James 4:9-10 "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." This is the great comfort that the Christian has on a daily basis.

Philippians 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

It a great comfort to know that the day is rapidly approaching when Satan shall be cast into hell forever and when the saints shall reign with the Lord Jesus in "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13). Though the chastening hand of the Lord is often laid upon us and though "no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous" (Hebrews 12:11), nevertheless, we are consoled by the fact that God is working out for us "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17). The righteous person – whom God has convinced, and convicted, and converted – does not mourn only for his own sins, but also the sins of others, especially those within the covenant community of the church.

When God reveals his holiness to Isaiah, the prophet is so overwhelmed that he cries, "Woe is me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty" (Isaiah 6:5). Jeremiah mourns extensively about the sins of the people in the Books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. Daniel cries out to God concerning the promise of the people's return to Israel and he mourns over the sins of his people: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have

sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws" (Daniel 9:4-5).

The more we meditate on the Divine Truth and Beauty, and Goodness of God the more we realize the poverty of our own human nature. It is a comparison that takes us to the depths of sorrow and grief. When you contemplate that we were made in the image and likeness of God and lived in Paradise, the Garden of Eden, and compare that to our present state after the Fall, we can only mourn our present condition.

But the blessing of God's love and grace is that *we shall be comforted*. God will see to it! It will come from Christ himself. It will come from the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and it will come through the encouragement of his humble saints. Mourning in this context is called a blessing, because mourning our fallen nature creates in us a desire to improve ourselves and to do what is right! So Congratulations! Because you are blessed. Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted with God's happiness and joy.