

## The Beatitudes

### Blessed Are They That Mourn

Matthew 5:4

## Introduction

In the Sermon on the Mount, the people heard a message on how to live. It was ethical teaching on life as taught by the Creator of life. It was spiritual teaching about a spiritual kingdom by the King of the ages. It was an invitation to join a heavenly kingdom, an everlasting kingdom. It was no longer just a future hope; now, it sparked of a present reality.

The Kingdom of Heaven invaded the ordinary kingdoms of this world and would sweep the globe with a life-transforming power. It was a kingdom of divine love. It was a kingdom of the heart. It was a message that would shape and impact every aspect of the early church. But it was much more than a creed they recited or laws they observed. It was a deep and holy conviction that God sent Jesus, and He could transform any life.

The first part of the Sermon on the Mount is known as the Beatitudes, which means "The Blessings." The Beatitudes address the character of kingdom citizens. It's why they are called the "be-attitudes." The attitude of being rather than just doing.

Matthew Chapter 5 says that when Jesus saw the crowds, "He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted."* (Matthew 5:1-4 NKJV)

Those who choose to follow God desire every one of these spiritual attributes. By receiving Christ, we partake of His divine nature. 2 Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust." (2 Peter 1:3-4 NKJV)

Our heavenly nature is to display these traits and demonstrate the character of Christ as kingdom citizens. But the more we realize how much God has sacrificed for us and loved us, the greater the mourning and regret we feel over our sinfulness.

## I. Mourning

So, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn."

### A. Mourning our Sinfulness

A person cannot come to Christ unless the Holy Spirit calls them and softens their heart. The poor in spirit are those who have already acknowledged they need God in their life. Of course, every person experiences some type of grief and mourning in their life. But Jesus is talking about kingdom life. He's talking about those who have become citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

When you recognize your sinfulness and helplessness to change your sinful ways, it causes you to mourn your own sinful deeds. It is an anguish of soul and spirit that results from facing our own wickedness. We recognize that if we got what we deserved, we would be eternally banned from all of God's goodness.

We truly mourn our sins because we care about what God thinks. Once we begin to see how destructive sin is, we start to see why our wickedness offends God. Jesus refers to a kind of sorrow that comes from true repentance and humility. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, "For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." (2 Corinthians 7:10 NKJV)

When you hear the call of the Spirit, you recognize how desperately sinful you are! You realize the shame and guilt of your sinfulness in contrast to the holiness of a God who is sinless. It causes us to fall before Him to plead for his mercy and forgiveness. That is the response of those who genuinely mourn their own sinfulness. That is the true nature of citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

But blessed believers also mourn that which dishonors God.

## **B. Mourning what dishonors God.**

When we draw near to God, the greater our mourning becomes over all that dishonors Him. Unfortunately, the spirit of the antichrist has been gaining momentum in our world for over 2000 years. Sin and lawlessness have reached an all-time high in nations around the globe. The scoffers abound! They permeate every fiber of society.

A blessed believer's heart is constantly grieved by the attitudes and behaviors of the citizens of this world. But not only that, we grieve because this destructive spirit has crept into the church to corrupt those who have faith! It is so tragic to hear that someone has abandoned the faith and chosen a sinful life. We grieve for the fallen because "But for the grace of God - there go I!" The Apostle Paul writes, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV)

Are you doing things that you shouldn't be doing? If we are citizens of heaven, shouldn't we act like it?

## **C. Mourning for the Lost.**

We also realize how desperately lost our friends and family members are who do not follow Christ. Realizing how terrible it would be to be eternally separated from them, we begin to mourn and intercede for them. We cannot bear the thought of resigning them to an eternal torment. It moves us to plead with them and plead with God to intervene and bring them to the hope of salvation.

This kind of mourning extends to those we don't even know. We find ourselves becoming more and more like those early believers who went everywhere preaching the gospel - hoping to rescue even a few lost souls! Listen to Paul as he writes to the Roman believers in Chapter 15, "But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain. But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ." ([Romans 15:25-29 NKJV](#))

Paul had a great desire to see people come to know Christ and experience God's blessings. 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 realized how wrong and sinful he was, he cried out for the mercy of God. He told the Galatians that he now preached the faith which once he destroyed.

Jesus promises comfort to those who mourn over their sins. The blessing of mourning causes us to learn something special about the fellowship of His sufferings (Philippians 3:10). Isaiah 53:3 says that Jesus as the Messiah would be, "despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." ([Isaiah 53:3 NKJV](#))

Yet, Jesus says that those who mourn will be comforted.

## **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 sins and sorrows. There is no excuse that will cover your sinfulness and failures. That is what causes us to mourn. But God sees our mourning and comforts us with His comfort. As we confess our sins to God, He comforts us with the assurance that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin ( 1 John 1:7).

Even when we have dishonored God with a poor attitude or un-Christlike behavior, we can accept the comfort and forgiveness of God because of Christ's sacrifice for us.

### **A. Comforted by Christ**

Thankfully, Jesus has provided the great comfort of salvation by blotting out our sins. Your situation is not hopeless because we have a savior who knows our grief and chooses to stand with us.

Jesus said He came to seek and to save the lost. When you sin, if you acknowledge it and confess your sin before God, He comforts you with His forgiveness and abiding presence. That is the healthy and correct attitude for mourning over your sins.

But not only does Christ comfort us by giving us saving faith He also sends the Holy Spirit to comfort us in our daily living.

## **B. Comforted by the Holy Spirit**

The Greek word for Comforter is "parakletos." The Holy Spirit is the Comforter. But He is also a Counselor and Advocate for us in a legal sense. Jesus said in John 14:16, " *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*" (John 14:16-17 NKJV)

In verse 25, he says, " *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*" (John 14:26 NKJV)

In John 15:26, he says, " *But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.*" (John 15:26 NKJV)

In John 16, he says, " *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*" (John 16:7 NKJV)

And finally, in John 16:13, Jesus says, " *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*" (John 16:13 NKJV)

Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit was the Comforter and that believers who mourn would be comforted by the Holy Spirit. Psalm 30 says, "Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger *is but for a moment*, His favor *is for life*; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy *comes* in the morning." (Psalms 30:4-5 NKJV)

Until Jesus returns, we have been called to fellowship in the sufferings of the Man of Sorrows. But Romans 8:17 reminds us, "If... we suffer with Him..., we shall also be

also glorified together." Paul tells Timothy, "If we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him.

### **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, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now, if we are afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or, if we are comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation. And our hope for you *is* steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also *you will partake* of the consolation." (2 Corinthians 1:3-7 NKJV)

The ministry of encouragement and reconciliation has been committed to us by Christ. As the servants of Christ, we are to be encouragers! The Apostle Paul says that we have been reconciled to God by Jesus Christ, and He has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Are the words you speak encouraging words? Do your words bring healing and reconciliation? Jesus said those who mourn shall be comforted.

Paul writes about his own experience of comfort and encouragement by Philemon in Chapter 1, "I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother." (Philemon 1:4-7 NKJV)

Who is God leading you to be a blessing to? Has God ever placed a burden on your heart for someone? Have you told them? It's important to let people know you've been praying for them - they need to hear those words of encouragement!

God doesn't hide his blessing from us! He freely distributes his encouragement and grace to us.

### **III. The Blessing**

In Matthew Chapter 25, Jesus teaches about those who really get the teaching on the Kingdom of Heaven. 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 a blessing that moves us to action and fills our heart with eternal purpose and mission. That blessing 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. Psalm 30:5 says, Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Isaiah 35:10 says, Then all "sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

And the fulfillment of the words from the great heavenly voice in Revelation 21:3, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God, Himself will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:3-4 NKJV)

Heaven stands to applaud the one who kneels to confess their sins before God and says, Well done, thou good and faithful servant enter into the joy of the Lord!" 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. When we pour out our lives with tears and anguish over the sinfulness of fallen humanity, we will be comforted.

Psalms 126:5 says, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

## **Conclusion**

James 4:9 says, "Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4:9-10 NKJV)

This is the great comfort that Jesus promises us on a daily basis. Philippians 4:6-Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV)

Even when the chastening hand of the Lord is laid upon us, Hebrews 12:11 says, "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11 NKJV)

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory." (2 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV)

A righteous person whom God has convinced, 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. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel, openly declared their grief and mourning over the sins of the nation of Israel. The more we meditate on God's Divine Truth and Beauty and the 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. But by the blessing of God's love and grace 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.

So Congratulations! Because you are blessed. Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted with God's happiness and joy.