

## 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 explaining what the Kingdom of Heaven is all about.

Jesus emphasized the spiritual Kingdom was everlasting and that Kingdom - the Kingdom of Heaven - had come! It was no longer a future hope but a present reality. The Kingdom of Heaven would sweep the globe with life-transforming power. It was a kingdom of love. It was a Kingdom of the Heart. It was a kingdom of virtue and ethics that motivated a daily living that honored the Creator. Jesus trained his disciples with this message. It was a message that had a significant impact on the early church.

The first part of the Sermon on the Mount is known as the Beatitudes, meaning "The Blessings." It addresses the character of kingdom citizens. These blessings tell us 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. Let's read them from Matthew Chapter 5.

And seeing the multitudes, 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. Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God. Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:1-12 NKJV)

These character traits are marks of kingdom living. They are goals for all Christians. Authentic followers of God desire every one of these spiritual attributes. It is our heavenly nature to display these traits and demonstrate the character of Christ as kingdom citizens. When you realize how much God has loved you and sacrificed for you, it produces a mourning and regret over your own sinfulness and the sins of this world.

### I. Mourning

Since a person cannot come to Christ unless the Holy Spirit calls to them and softens their heart, the poor in spirit have already acknowledged their need for God. Jesus isn't referring to all humanity, even though every person experiences a time of grief and mourning. Jesus is talking about those who have become citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven who recognize their own sinfulness.

### **Mourning our sinfulness**

This mourning is not a sadness or grief over the loss of a loved one; it is an anguish of soul and spirit that results from realizing our own sinfulness. It's recognizing that if we got what we deserved, we would be eternally banned from all of God's goodness. It doesn't mean we live in self-pity or depression, but we do lament our sins because we care about what God thinks.

Once we begin to see sin for what it really is, we start to see how our sinful behavior offends God. You may regret your sinful deeds because you got caught, but that doesn't mean you identify with the destructive nature of your sinfulness. Jesus is referring to a kind of sorrow that comes from honest and true repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 says, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." When you hear the call of the Spirit, you immediately recognize how sinful you are!

You experience the shame and guilt of your sinfulness when you realize the holiness of a God who is sinless. And you can't help but fall before God and beg for his mercy and forgiveness. That is the response of those who genuinely mourn their sinfulness. That is the true nature of citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

But believers also mourn that which dishonors God.

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

The closer we get to God, the more we mourn 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 the citizens of this world.

We also grieve because this spirit has crept into the church to corrupt as many believers as possible! We grieve for those who have fallen. We pray for them. We don't gloat over their demise or 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 lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV)

What about you? Are you doing things you shouldn't be doing? Remember, we are citizens of heaven, and we ought to act like it!

### **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. How terrible it would be if we were eternally separated from them! The thought causes us to mourn and intercede for them.

This mourning extends to those we don't even know. We find ourselves becoming more and more like those early believers who went everywhere presenting and sharing the gospel - hoping to rescue even a few lost souls! The Apostle Paul was driven by the 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 threw himself upon the mercy of God. Now, he preached the faith which once he destroyed.

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

Those who mourn will be comforted.

## **II. Comforted**

There is no excuse for our sinfulness and failures. As citizens of God's Kingdom, in mourning (Godly sorrow), we confess our sins to God and He comforts us with the assurance that the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Even if you have dishonored God by your poor attitude or un-Christ like behavior, God can still forgive and comfort you because of Christ's sacrifice for you.

### **Comforted by Christ**

Because of Christ we have the great comfort of salvation - our sins are blotted out. The hope for those who mourn is Jesus. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Jesus came into this world to seek and to save those who are lost. He came to save me! He came to save you! But not only does Christ comfort us by giving us saving faith, He also sends the Holy Spirit to comfort us.

### **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 and Advocate for us in a legal sense. Jesus said in John 14, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 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 14:15-17 NKJV)

In verses 25 and 26 Jesus says, " "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 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 14:25-26 NKJV)

In John 15:26 Jesus 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)

And 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. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" (John 16:7-8 NKJV)

And finally in verse 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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you." (John 16:13-15 NKJV)

Jesus said that the Comforter was the Holy Spirit. Believers who mourn are comforted by the Divine Comforter.

### **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."

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NKJV)

As the servants of Christ we are to be encouragers! The ministry of encouragement and reconciliation has been committed to us by Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:18 Paul says, "Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation," (2 Corinthians 5:18 NKJV)

Are the words you speak encouraging words or discouraging words? Are your words full of healing and hope? Do you speak the words of life from the precious promises of the Word or criticize or judge others? 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, "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)

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**

In Matthew 25, "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'" (Matthew 25:34-40 NKJV)

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 an eternal purpose and mission. 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. 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!

God wants to give you the full measure 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 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)

A 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.

The more we meditate on God and His saving love poured out for us through Jesus Christ, 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 all of mankind was made in the image and likeness of God and lived in Paradise, the Garden of Eden, and compare that to our present world since 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 be better and to do what is right! Congratulations! Because you are blessed.

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted with God's happiness and joy.