

## Matthew 5:4 - Kingdom Character – Those who Mourn!

### Scriptures:

Romans 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Proverbs 17:22a - A merry heart does good, like medicine...

Ecclesiastes 3:4 - A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...

Genesis 6:5-6 - Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

1 Samuel 15:35 - And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

Mark 6:5-6a - Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief.

Romans 7:24 - O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Isaiah 59:16a - He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor...

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always,

### 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they

G3996 – to grieve  
(feeling) v. — to  
feel grief or  
sorrow.

### shall be comforted.

G3870 - to be  
comforted (state)  
v. — to be or  
become consoled  
for sorrow or  
distress.

even to the end of the  
age." Amen.

Luke 18:9-14 - Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 32:1 - Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Corinthians 6:10a -

Revelation 21:3-4 - And I heard a loud voice from

"The mourning for which Christ promises Divine comfort is a sorrowing over our sins with a godly sorrow." (Pink, 2011) page 15

The parable of the Pharisee and the Publican is a good illustration for the first two beatitudes (Luke 18:9-14).

What does it mean to be comforted? The comfort comes from the removal of guilt over our sins bring to our hearts. It is the sense of full and free forgiveness of sins that God gives by His grace to those who are broken over their sin and recognize their poverty before God. By acknowledging our sins and mourning over them, knowing there is nothing we can do to be forgiven releases God's grace and we are forgiven through faith in Christ.

Though we mourn over our daily encounter with our own sin, we are comforted by the cleansing blood of Christ washing us clean of that sin (1 John 1:9). David understood this truth (Psa. 32:1).

A healthy Christian moves regularly between mourning and comfort. Paul lived in this reality (2 Cor. 6:10 a). As our faith grows, we grow in our knowledge of God and His holiness and justice. For those truly seeking God, that knowledge will remind them of their poverty before God and their failure to live up to God's perfect holiness. That realization should cause the Christian to mourn – to have a deep abiding sense of how far they are from God. It is then that the believer should experience God's comfort – to have the sense of His loving and accepting presence in their lives.

"It is the greatest of all days when in horror and desolation over our sin and sins we weep, so that the divine smile begins to break." (Hughes, 2001) page 27

spiritually poor. The second focused on the emotions- those who feel the weight of their sins. Once someone come to understand who and what they are and realize there is nothing they can do about it, it should produce an emotional response within them.

"Jesus is calling His people to grieve over the very things that grieve Him, and He pronounces a blessing on those who will mourn over the things that cause anguish in the heart of God." (Wilson, 2013) page 26

Evil grieves the heart of God (Gen. 6:5-6). Disobedience also grieves God (1 Sam. 15:35). Unbelief causes God to marvel (Mark 6:5-6).

A heart that is humbled before God and willing to yield to His authority will mourn over sin and for the lost.

There is one thing worse than sin – it is the denial of sin.

Mourning for the lost must manifest in the physical world. Do we pray for the lost with a mournful heart (Isa. 59:16)?

Another thing that grieves God's heart is not what is happening in the world, but what is happening within His church. Jesus told His people to go out and make disciples (Matt. 28:19).

"If we are going to mourn for anything today, let it be the impotence of the church in this sinful world." (Wilson, 2013) page 31

There are so many reasons for mourning in the life of a Christian. The more aware we become of our own heart; we should mourn like Paul (Rom. 7:24). Our propensity to wander from Christ is another reason to mourn. Our doubts and unbelief should cause us to mourn. Too often we lack the communion with God, He created us for.

'comfort' – when our heart is broken for the things that break God's heart, and we respond in humble faith by crying out to God for Him to act, He will give us His comfort, helping us to trust Him as we wait for Him to act.

### Notes:

"There is no guarantee that God will give us all the things we want, but Scripture promises us that He will bless us with the character we need." (Wilson, 2013) page 5

The Beatitudes are not a list of things we can pick and choose from, they are necessary character traits of a child of God living in His kingdom.

The kingdom of God is where God reigns. If the kingdom of God is within us then our character should match the character of the King – Jesus.

We live in the world and are usually having to deal with the influence of the culture we are living in. As Christians, we are called to live in God's kingdom and conform ourselves to the culture of the kingdom of God. The Beatitudes describe that culture. To live in the culture of the kingdom of God we must choose to abandon the culture of the world (Rom. 12:2). This is hard because human nature tends to seek acceptance by those we are living around.

If the gospel is alive within us, it will transform us. If we are not being transformed, the gospel is not in us (2 Cor. 5:17).

We should desire and seek God's blessing. What we are tempted to forget is that blessing is connected to God's approval of our lives. And that approval is a result of faith and obedience.

"The characteristics listed in the beatitudes are produced by the Holy Spirit working in a submissive heart." (Wilson, 2013) page 8

The characteristics described in the beatitudes are not natural and therefore cannot be produced by the natural man. At best, they can mimic them on a surface level. Only the Holy Spirit can make these deep heart changes.

'mourn' – There are things in this world that will cause us to mourn like the death of a loved one. Mourning is the wretched state a human might find themselves in. It might include a state of shock, dismay, despair, and hopelessness. It can be so deep that you could destroy yourself.

People would much rather be happy than they would to be sad. There is nothing wrong with being happy, even in church. One of the signs of a healthy Christian and church is joy and laughter. Solomon said being happy is good for you (Pro 17:22a). He also said there was a right time for laughing and weeping (Eccl. 3:4).

The first beatitude was primarily focused on the intellect – it looked to those who knew they were

heaven saying, "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. 4 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."

Sin is an ever-present reality, both in our lives and in the world around us. Today, we mourn, but a day is coming when that will end ([Rev. 21:3-4](#)).

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