

The Second Beatitude: Those Who Mourn

Call to Worship

“Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalms 51:9-12)

Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

- ❖ Everything the world teaches opposes this principle taught by Christ. The world tells us “Let’s eat, drink, and be merry; for tomorrow we die”. Christ links comfort to mourning. The concept of mourning is uncomfortable to most. The word used for MOURN in Matthew is the strongest word for it in the Greek language.

Two Concepts of What it Means to Mourn (pen-the'-ō)

1) Mourning for Others: Three Types discussed

- a) loss of Loved ones or opportunities
 - i) Death of a family member
 - ii) Not sharing Christ with those you loved, missed opportunities

- b) Sin state of this world
 - i) Prevalence of Abortion (*over 50 million performed since 1970*)

 - ii) Violence and hatred toward strangers (*bullying, mass shootings*)

 - iii) Genocide of Nations (*Rwanda, Sudan, Syria*)

- c) Injustices of the world
 - i) Poverty (*According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty, half the world’s child population is in poverty*)

 - ii) Lack of available medical care (*Half the world’s population have no available medical facilities or access to vaccinations*)

 - iii) Christian persecution (*Approximately 215 million Christians experience high, very high, or extreme persecution, Christianity Today*)

➤ **Jesus wept on two occasions in His ministry: both times he mourned for others**

- Over Jerusalem and the hardened heart of her people who had rejected Him

- At the suffering and grief seen at the grave of his friend Lazarus

2) Mourning for Our Sin

- a) Sin, regardless of its 'size' separates us from God. The primary type of mourning referred to by Jesus in verse 4 is for the individual and his own spiritual condition. *- "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. " (2 Corinthians 7:10)*
- b) Peter's Pride and Denial of Jesus (*ugly crying*) - *Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times . . ." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26:33-34, 74-75)*
- c) Moses not allowed to enter the promised land (*tripped at the finish line*) - *And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." (Numbers 20:12)*
- d) Job allowed to lose everything (*could not find his own fault thru pride*) - *Then Job answered the Lord and said: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:1-6)*

Comfort in Christ

- Comfort only comes through true repentance and brokenness; the road to a restored heart is paved in tears. We rest in the promise that God will comfort the one who sees his own unworthiness before Him: Peter was restored by Jesus, Moses saw the Promised Land, Job has his family and fortune restored many times over.
- We first find comfort in a deliverance from sin's penalty through Christ's completed work on the cross. No worldly comfort can compare to the comfort given to a man by God.
- As Christians we have deliverance from the power of sin through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Sin will always be present with us but we are not defeated by it. - *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)*

Final Thoughts

- We must understand that we are not alright, our sin rots our very soul. It's not until we are truly broken inside that we can be led to the joy and comfort found in Christ Jesus

Benediction

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God..." (Romans 8:15-16)