



Exploring the Kingdom in Matthew: Blessed are They that Mourn!

July 30, 2017

TEXT: MATTHEW 5:4

- The word *mourn* in the Greek is *pentheo*. It means, “To grieve, to wail, to lament.” (Strong’s)
- A lament is “grief or sorrow expressed in complaints or cries; lamentation; a weeping. It also can mean a torment, and furious rage.” (Webster)
- Immediately, the question arises to most readers, “Mourn over what?” This is important. Having some understanding of our LORD’s intent helps us learn what sort of Kingdom people we must be as it relates to the mourning called for.

The Believer’s Bible Commentary says:

This does not refer to mourning because of the vicissitudes of life. It is the sorrow which one experiences because of fellowship with the Lord Jesus. It is an active sharing of the world's hurt and sin with Jesus. Therefore, it includes, not only sorrow for one's own sin, but also sorrow because of the world's appalling condition, it's rejection of the Savior, and the doom of those who refuse His mercy.

CHRIST THE MOURNER?

Scripture tells us concerning Christ:

Isa 53:3 *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

Isa 53:10 *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

A TIME TO MOURN

- Friends, although this Beatitude does not jibe well with our desire for consistent happiness, Scripture declares that there is a time to mourn...

Ecc 3:4 *A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

Jas 4:9-10 *Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

- Our view is that the mourning called for in Matthew 5:4 is over one’s own sin and the brokenness and depravity of the world.
- Like the other Blessings in this sermon, this is not something with which we are consistently familiar in our day. We may have moments of mourning, but our pursuits turn quickly to the pursuit of comfort and pleasure.

- But let us not forget that Blessings are promised to those who understand and embrace this. This is chiefly because in order to truly mourn over sin, one's heart must totally change!

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- **Friends, comfort is coming! The comfort from mourning may not come as swiftly as we like, but let us close with these precious promises...**

***Rev 21:1-7** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, 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. **4** 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. **5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. **6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. **7** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

Amen!

FAMILY WORSHIP/PERSONAL DEVOTION QUESTIONS:

1. When was the last time you mourned over sin, either in your own life or in the world?
2. What moved you to do so? Can you explain how you felt?
3. Do you think this sort of mourning could also be a motivation? If so, for what?
4. Jesus promises comfort to those who mourn. How does this make you feel?
5. The fact that Jesus mourned is sobering; and of course He suffered, bled, and died for sin. Discuss how this truth might impact your worship and service to the Kingdom.