



“Blessed are those Who Mourn, for They Shall Be Comforted”
Matthew 5:4

There are many ways in which we consider we are “blessed” in our lives. Good families, kids healthy, stable jobs, NH great place to live. Not many would consider grieving as a place of blessing. Fewer would consider the things we should be grieving about. Is it possible that in godly grief, blessing can occur?

Key Verse. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4).

In “The Beatitudes” Jesus gives some counter-cultural counsel again about the characteristics of a disciple of his. Being a disciple is not just what we do, but who we are, and who we are is to be different than what I see around me. Each beatitude builds upon the previous. He started with “poor in spirit” – a heart, life attitude of humility before God. It is a recognition that I am hopeless and helpless with God. Once I recognize that, I must confront the sin in my life.

What are the things that typically cause me to grieve? When was the last time that I truly grieved over sin?

We typically don’t like to confront the things that grieve us. Read *Psalm 34:17-18, Romans 12:15, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5*. What promises does God make when I do grieve? How do they give me permission to let myself grieve?

Read *Romans 5:12*. What does Paul say is the reason for all the grief we see and experience in the world? What reasons do I typically give for the grief I see around me and in me?

A disciple of Jesus recognizes the depth of sin’s impact. If I believe this to be true, how should this affect my attitude and actions in seeking forgiveness from God? Do I take time to mourn for the extent of sin?

Jesus introduces his ministry by saying, “Repent the Kingdom of God is near.” Repentance is an intentional turning away from the things that bring grief to God. How do I view repentance?

Mourning for sin without repentance leaves me hopeless. Agree or disagree? Why? _____

Read *Romans 5:17,18* and *Revelation 7:16,17*. How do these verses give me comfort and hope?

THIS WEEK:

- What sins in my own life do I need to take time to mourn?
- Where do I need to ask and receive God’s comfort in my own life?
- To whom would God have me offer his comfort?