

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Godly Sorrow

Matthew 5:4

1 Remember - The beatitudes are exclamations. 2 They can be translated, “You are so fortunate . . . because!”

3

God is molding your character through the circumstances of your life. 4 He cares very much about the circumstances you experience. 5 But, He is more concerned about the molding process than He is about your circumstances. God sees what you experience from His eternal perspective. 6

These beatitudes are the character traits He is molding into you so you can experience the final results! 7

So, the next beatitude we find in Matthew, chapter 5, verse 4, is **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 8**

I. What Does “Those Who Mourn” Mean?

What does “those who mourn” mean? ⁹

What does **mourn** mean? ¹⁰ **Mourn** ¹ means sorrow, grief for the dead, a passionate lament for a lost loved one, bringing an ache to the heart and unrestrained tears to the eyes. ¹¹

When Jacob was told that his son Joseph had been attacked and killed by a wild animal, he responded this way. **Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." So his father wept for him.** ²

On my first assignment as an Army chaplain at Fort Rucker, Alabama, one of my tasks was to make death notifications throughout Alabama and Louisiana. When anyone died at the installation, I was to travel to

¹ πένθew.

² Genesis 37:34-35.

their next of kin to notify them of their loved one's passing. Often, as soon as I stepped out of the vehicle dressed in my Class A uniform, the uncontrolled crying and screaming would begin from family members. This was the worst part of my duties as I empathized with their pain. ¹²

So, what is this passage telling us? ¹³ This is **godly sorrow**. Second Corinthians, chapter 7, verse 10, **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.** ¹⁴

Some take this to mean **sorrow for the world's condition.** ¹⁵

This could include immorality in government and apathy about it by so many citizens. ¹⁶

It could mean Christian bashing by the media and political leaders the last few years. ¹⁷ Do you know that more Christians were persecuted throughout the world in the last century than all the other centuries

combined! There is slavery in Sudan, imprisonment in China, murder in Africa and other predominately Islamic countries. ¹⁸ We have a lot in our current world to mourn over! ¹⁹

The comfort we get though is from Revelation, chapter 21, verses 3 and 4, **And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."** ²⁰

Also, we are having a worldwide spiritual revival which started in the last century and appears to be continuing! So, we have a cause for rejoicing as well.

²¹

But this passage probably means **sorrow for your own personal sins!** You get on the freeway and begin speeding down the road. Law enforcement pulls you

over for breaking the speed limit. You are sorrowful as you reach for your documents to show the officer. ²²

Notice Second Corinthians, chapter 7, verse 10, again, **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.** Worldly sorrow is sorrow that you got caught. ²³ Godly sorrow is a genuine sorrow for doing something displeasing to the One who loved you enough to suffer and die for you! ²⁴

How sorry are you about your sins? Do they grieve you as much as they grieve God? Probably not!

I don't think we make much out of our sins today. Our society surely doesn't. Morality today is relative; do whatever you want as long as it does not adversely affect others. That's morality with God out of the picture! There doesn't seem to be a right or wrong! ²⁵

How terrible are your sins to God? Terrible enough for Jesus to go to the cross for them!

Look at the cross! William Barclay said, “Sin can take the loveliest life in all the world and smash it on a cross!”

Look at the cross! Open your eyes to the horror of sin. Those little sins you think are so unimportant; Lord Jesus had to suffer on a cross for those!

Look at the cross! Sin affects you, your Christian witness and the lives of those who look up to you as an example! ²⁶

II. How Should You Respond?

How should you respond? ²⁷

Godly sorrow brings us to repentance! Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ²⁸

What's repentance? ³ It means to change your mind. It means to decide to forsake one way of life for another!

²⁹

³ μετάνοια.

Repent was the first thing we heard John the Baptist preaching. ⁴ ₃₀ Repent was the first thing we heard Lord Jesus preaching. ⁵ ₃₁

Where does repentance fit in? It is an important element in God's Plan of Salvation as progressive expressions of your faith! ₃₂

Godly sorrow means that you are mourning over the way your lifestyle has displeased the One who loves you so much. ₃₃

Repentance is your decision to leave the old life of the world and take up the lifestyle of Christ. **Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** ⁶ ₃₄

The Good Confession is your pledge of allegiance to Lord Jesus. **Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you**

⁴ Matthew 3:2 - Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

⁵ Matthew 4:17 - Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

⁶ Matthew 16:24.

made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession.³⁵

Your baptism is your ceremonial identification with the Lord and His gospel. Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.⁷³⁶

Then comes the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit into your life as the down payment on eternal life in heaven!³⁷ Second Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 21 says, Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of

⁷ Romans 6:3-5.

ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. ³⁸

Then, again, in Ephesians, chapter 1, verses 13 and 14, it says, **And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.** ³⁹

That's where comfort is!

Blessed are those who mourn - for they will be comforted! ⁸

<http://www.biblelifemessages.org>

⁸ Matthew 5:4.