

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Lesson: #3

Title: They That Mourn

Scripture: Matthew 5: 4

Date: 5-24-2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Matthew 5: 4: Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

I. Blessed are they that mourn

A. Happy are they that mourn? Supremely favored of God are they that mourn?

We usually say we have been blessed when things go the way we want them to go. Have you ever thanked the Lord because he made you to mourn? The Lord Jesus Christ says, "Blessed are they that mourn."

This world gives us many reasons to mourn. We mourn the death of loved ones: a father or mother; a sister or brother; a spouse; a child. Often unkind words or deeds spoken by us or spoken by someone to us may cause us to mourn. We are brought to grieve often in our necessary dealings in this world.

Yet, as sorrowful as those things may be, there is a far, far worse reason that the blessed person mourns. Last week we saw that those who are blessed of God are those in whom the Holy Spirit has created a new spirit. In that new spirit we are made to behold how poor we are in ourselves, in trespasses and in sins. The mourning of the blessed man is because he beholds that sin is what he is. **Psalm 38: 17: For I *am* ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me. 18: For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.**

Do you realize that all sorrow is traced directly or indirectly to sin? Death, unkindness, the opposition we face from others everyday, are all the result of sin. But what makes sin so exceedingly sinful is that we know that our sin is against our holy, loving and gracious God who has shown us only goodness all our days.

B. Those who are blessed mourn because by our sin we pierced the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Zechariah 12:10: And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Did you pierce the Lord Jesus Christ? Did you nail him to the cross? Those who are blessed have been made to know by the Spirit of God's grace are made to mourn the fact, that "I" put him there. **Isaiah 53: 4: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5: But he *was* wounded for our**

transgressions, *he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him;*

But how does such mourning bring me comfort? **Isaiah 53: 5:...***and with his stripes we are healed.*

Matthew 5: 4: Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

II. They shall be comforted.

A. The comfort of those who mourn over their sin is Christ Jesus and the forgiveness of sin in him. The Lord likens our tears to seed which brings forth a bountiful harvest.

Psalm 126: 5: They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6: He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

When we are made to mourn our sin, we behold that our Lord Jesus Christ went forth and weeping--the Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He went forth to the cross bearing precious seed--the elect of God. Christ is the Seed which fell into the ground as a corn of wheat and was broken and brings forth much fruit. But he came again with rejoicing. He is reaping bountifully even now and shall come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves--the fruit of his harvest--his redeemed children--with him.

B. When you and I mourn most, we are usually the most teachable.

It is difficult to do anything but look up to God when we are cast down. We find it near impossible to stiffen our necks in rebellion when our hearts are melted in sorrow. The flames of obstinacy turn to smoke when drowned in our tears. **Ps 116:3: The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. 4: Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.**

Remember, at the marriage at Cana, when Christ caused the earthen vessels to be filled with water he then turned the water into wine, and what did it cause the governor of the feast to do? He called the bridegroom ([Joh 2:9.](#))

So it is when God fills us with tears, he turns it into wine as he causes us to call out for our Comfort. And we find: he chose me freely; he purged my sin; he imputed everlasting righteousness to my account; he created me anew; there is therefore now no condemnation So the blessed man is comforted and rejoices, saying, **5: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. 6: The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me. 7: Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.**

C. We might say this comfort comes in 3 ways:

Christ is our Comfort as we *endure* suffering--we are comforted by the consolation. We say with David, Why is thy soul cast down? **Ps 51: 7: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be**

clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8: Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9: Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11: Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12: Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13: Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

After he turns us again to behold Christ we get a foretaste of heaven divine—it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness— **Ps 119: 71: It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.**

Then comes the full reaping in the great day of our Lord--I shall be happy when I awake in thy likeness—**Revelations 21: 1: 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.**

Application: Consider what the Lord has provided for his people?

God the Father gave his Son. The Son said he came for this reason: **Isaiah 61:3: To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.** Christ Jesus the Son of God has given to us the Comforter the Holy Spirit through which Christ abides in the believer. The Scriptures are given to us--God's has signed his name to every word. The Lord Jesus has given you the ordinances to remember him until he returns. The ministers of the word are given to you who have a commission from the Lord to speak comfortably to the Lord's people.

Those of you who are seeking comfort elsewhere, why do you we seek comfort anywhere but in Christ Jesus the Son of God? You do so because you have not yet found Christ to be All the Consolation there is. The whole need not the physician, but they that are sick. Are you sorrowing over your sin today?

Mt 11:28: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. He says to us here: Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted!