

Matthew 5:4

**What a happy estate have all those who mourn,
For it is they who shall be comforted.**

- A. Remember that the beatitudes are about a _____ . They are describing the _____ of a true disciple.
1. We _____ to mourn – _____ the time!
 2. It is those who are _____ to mourn who will be comforted.
 3. The beatitudes are intended to _____ the citizens of the kingdom of heaven with the citizens of the kingdom of this world.
 4. So if the disciples mourn, then we can safely assume that the world does _____ mourn.
- B. There is only one kingdom of heaven that comes progressively in stages. So it is both _____ and _____.
1. The disciples of the kingdom mourn because they are acutely conscious of the fact that they still live in the “not yet”.
 2. It is impossible for them to fully and finally rejoice until all of the “not yet” gives way to the “already”.
- C. Old Testament Background
1. Isaiah 61:1-3 – The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring **good news to the poor** [Mat. 5:3]; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to **comfort all who mourn** [Mat. 5:4]; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
 2. Isaiah 12:1 – You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.
 3. Isaiah 40:1-2 – Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.
 4. Isaiah 49:13 – Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! for the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.
- D. The citizen of the kingdom of heaven is one who mourns over the continuing _____ and _____ of sin in his own life.
1. Scriptures
 - a. James 4:8-10 – Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
 - b. Psalm 51:8, 12, 17 – Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice... Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; **a broken and contrite heart**, O God, you will not despise.
 - c. 2 Corinthians 7:10 – For **godly grief** produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

- d. Psalm 30:4-5 – Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. **Weeping** may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
- e. Psalm 126:1-6 – When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb! Those who **sow in tears** shall reap with shouts of joy! He who **goes out weeping**, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

2. Notes:

E. The citizen of the kingdom of heaven is one who mourns over the continuing presence and consequences of sin in the _____ (cf. Romans 1:29-32).

1. Scriptures

- a. Ezekiel 9:4 – And the LORD said to [Ezekiel], “Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who **sigh and groan** over all the abominations that are committed in it.”
- b. Philippians 3:18 – For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even **with tears**, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- c. Psalm 119:136 – My eyes shed **streams of tears**, because people do not keep your law.
- d. Jeremiah 9:1-2 – Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of **tears**, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! Oh that I had in the desert a travelers’ lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a company of treacherous men.

2. Notes:

- a. We substitute for mourning a self-righteous _____ and judgmentalism.
- b. It is only those who _____ who truly hate sin as God hates sin.
- c. John 11:33-35 – When Jesus saw [Mary] weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept.

F. This mourning is a *conscious* _____ to be fully happy when we’re still living in the “not yet”!

1. Scriptures

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:2 – For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling... for while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life... So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we

walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

- b. Romans 8:22-23 – For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
2. Positively, this mourning is a longing for the _____ of Jesus.
3. What a happy estate have all those who are so in tune with the values of the kingdom that they are compelled to mourn as those who are still sinners and who are still living in a sinful world.

G. Contrasting the world's philosophy.

1. “By ‘mourning’ Jesus, of course, means doing without what the world calls peace and prosperity: He means refusing to be in tune with the world or to accommodate oneself to its standards. Such men mourn for the world, for its guilt, its fate and its fortune. While the world keeps holiday they stand aside, and while the world sings, ‘Gather ye rose-buds while ye may,’ they mourn. They see that for all the jollity on board, the ship is beginning to sink. The world dreams of progress, of power and of the future, but the disciples meditate on the end, the last judgement, and the coming of the kingdom. To such heights the world cannot rise. And so the disciples are strangers in the world, unwelcome guests and disturbers of the peace.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
2. Luke 6:21, 25 – Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh... Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

H. “What a happy estate have all those who mourn, for it is *they* who will be *comforted*.”

1. God's comfort is the wiping away of _____ and all its _____ and replacing it with the peaceful and joyous fruits of _____!
2. Scriptures
 - a. Revelation 7:17 – For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
 - b. Revelation 21:3-5 (cf. Isaiah 25:8) – And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”
 - c. Jeremiah 31:10-14 – Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.” For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the

priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD.”

- d. Isaiah 30:29 – You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept, and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.
 - e. Isaiah 35:10 – And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
3. If we have the Holy Spirit, then we have a _____ even today of the comfort that will one day be ours.
 4. “Christ... shows, that our very *mourning* contributes to a *happy* life, by preparing us to receive eternal joy, and by furnishing us with excitements to seek true *comfort* in God alone.” (Calvin)
 5. If we want to experience the joy of God’s comfort, then we must *cultivate* and *practice* the discipline of _____.

Teaching our Children

Q. What is the first beatitude?

A. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Take a moment to review and reflect.)

Q. What is the second beatitude?

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

Q. Why would a citizen of the kingdom of heaven ever mourn?!?

A. ~ He mourns because the kingdom of heaven has not yet fully come into this world!

~ He mourns because there is still sin in his life and because he still suffers from the consequences of sin (Discuss and reflect on the Scriptures under D.).

~ He mourns because he sees sin and its consequences all around him in the world (Discuss and reflect on the Scriptures under E.).

Q. Sometimes, instead of mourning over the sin that we see in the world, what are we tempted to do?

A. We are tempted just to point our finger at others and be “disgusted” with their sin. We must ask God to *help us* be able to *mourn* over sin and its consequences!

Q. As disciples of Jesus and citizens of the kingdom of heaven, we should refuse to be fully happy until when?

A. We should refuse to be fully happy until our King comes back and finishes our salvation! (Read and reflect on the Scriptures under F. 1.)

Q. Instead of mourning (like the citizens of the kingdom of heaven), what does the world say and do?

A. The world says: “Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” The world parties, and laughs, and tries to be as happy as possible in this life. (See Luke 6:21, 25; G. 2. above)

Q. What does Jesus promise to give to all those who mourn?

A. Comfort!

Q. What will this comfort be like? What will God do to comfort us?

A. God will take sin and all of its consequences (like death) out of the world forever. God will replace sin and death with righteousness and everlasting life. (Read and reflect on the Scriptures under H. 2.)

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