

“Sowing Tears and Reaping Joy” (Matthew 5:1–5)  
GCC, Morning Worship, 5/1/22

Introduction

- A. Review of beatitudes
    - 1. They are “flourishing” statements.
    - 2. They are descriptions of what the “good life” is
    - 3. They are not law
    - 4. They are not requirements to get into the kingdom
  - B. Some overall observations about these three beatitudes
    - 1. Don’t think it terms of “having arrived” and “always pressing forward”
    - 2. There is an anticipation for the eschaton (i.e., something in the future) for each category.
  - C. Main Idea: *The tears of the child of God are not for nothing; through God’s promises, they are producing eternal joy*
- I. Blessed are the poor in spirit (v. 3)
- A. This basically means those who are humble in spirit
  - B. What it is not
    - 1. It is not speaking of economic poverty
    - 2. It is not speaking of false humility
  - C. What it is

Having an accurate, sober-minded view of your own depravity such that you recognize the kind of savior you need to save you from that depravity

    - 1. **Worm theology?** (cf. Ps. 22:6; Isa 41:14; 1 Tim 1:15)
- II. Blessed are those who mourn (v. 4)
- A. What he’s not talking about
  - B. Over what sin do we mourn and why?
    - 1. We mourn because of the sin all around us
    - 2. We mourn over sin in our own life (cf. **Ezr. 9:6**; Jer 6:15 1 Cor 5:1–2; Jas 4:8–10)
  - C. How we are to mourn? With the right guides
    - 1. Guide of the present=morbid introspection
    - 2. Guide of the past=Cross of Christ
    - 3. Guide of the future=the eschatological state when all thing will be made right.
  - D. The comfort of Cross and Eschaton is Already/Not Yet

- III. Blessed are the meek (v. 5)
- A. What does it mean to be meek?  
Unassuming, gentile, humble of heart
  - B. Jesus was meek and gentle (Matthew 10:28–30)
  - C. What meekness is not?
  - D. How do we balance meekness and boldness in dealing with people?
    - 1. Distinguish between black and white issues and wisdom issues
    - 2. Make sure the person is *asking* for your advice.
    - 3. Lead out with asking questions rather than making bold declarations. IOW, try to lead them to the answer *first*, so that it was *their* idea.
    - 4. On black and white issues, be gentle with the repentant and bold with the unrepentant
  - E. The blessed irony of the meek...they shall inherit the earth (cf. Ps 37:11)

**Questions for Discussion and Application:**

- 1. What does it mean that each of these three beatitudes have a future orientation?
- 2. What does it mean to be ‘poor in spirit?’
- 3. How does our view of our own depravity affect our view of the Savior?
- 4. What are the two categories of sin over which we mourn?
- 5. What are the three guides to mourning?
- 6. How can morbid introspection be a form of false guilt AND a minimizing of the gospel of grace?
- 7. What does it mean to mourn in hope?
- 8. How do we balance meekness and boldness in dealing with people?
- 9. Why is it ironic that the ‘meek’ shall inherit the earth (read “the eschaton”)?