



February 15-16, 2025

Historical Context and Summary

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted (Matt. 5:4)

Like most of the beatitudes, this beatitude seems to go against the grain of popular opinion, or at least, practice. As one author says,

“It seems that we put off mourning, sorrow and weeping as far from us as possible. One of the largest industries in the world today, the entertainment industry, is dedicated to keeping people happy—away from feeling sorrowful as much as possible.”¹

Rather than misleading us, Jesus encourages us to embrace our mourning. The word for “mourn” in this verse is “the strongest word for mourning in the Greek language.”² It is the word which is used for mourning a deceased loved one. Jesus is speaking about a deep grief specially over our sin. This is a relevant follow-up to this first beatitude. When we realize our spiritual poverty (“Blessed are those who are poor in spirit,” v. 3), we will be grieved, and we will mourn. When we acknowledge and accept the reality of our sin, we will then be in a position to receive God’s specific promise in this beatitude ... to be comforted.

The word Jesus uses for “comfort” in this beatitude is the same word (*parakaleo*) He uses to describe the Holy Spirit, our comforter (John 14:26). Jesus means that those who mourn over their sins will be comforted by the forgiveness and presence of God. An extension of this meaning can also apply to all of our mourning, whether it is over our sin or over the reality of experiencing the consequences of living in a fallen world. When we embrace our mourning, we are in a position to be comforted by the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Discussion Guide

Break the Ice

What is something that you know is good to do, but that you avoid because it might be a challenge, it hurts, or it might be awkward?

¹ Lifeline Bible Church, “The Beatitudes or Be Attitudes,” <https://lifelinebiblechurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/THE-BEATITUDES.pdf>.

² William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*, vol. 1 (Edinburgh: Saint Andrews, 1964), 88.

Mourning is one of those things that many of us would choose to avoid, but is something that Jesus highlights as blessed. How comfortable are you when it comes to helping others or yourself deal with grief?

Up

What stands out, confuses, or challenges you about this beatitude or from this week's message?

Read Psalm 51 together. What does David's response to his own sin teach us about mourning the sin in our own life?

Pastor Ron quoted 2 Cor 7:10 and spoke of how a Christian's sorrow is different from how the world experiences and deals with sorrow. How have you seen these to differ? How are your beliefs about God exposed by your response towards sin?

In

React to this statement: "minimizing my own sin, minimizes my Savior and my salvation."

Pastor Ron spoke of how mourning can be directed at the loss of a life you love. This can certainly be regarding a loss of a loved one. But it also applies to any loss we experience because we live in a fallen world. What has been one of those life altering situations that you've had to grieve in your life?

Out

Comforting someone who is in deep mourning can feel like a challenge to some. When you are broken, what do you need from those around you? What can actually make the situation worse?

How can your response to grief negatively and positively impact others?

Prayer

Spend time praying that we would develop hearts that truly mourn sin. That we wouldn't grow numb to the sin that is in our lives, and the effects sin has on others.