

"The Sermon on the Mount"

The Beatitudes

Part 2

Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction: Two weeks ago we started a study of the Sermon on the Mount which is recorded in Matthew 5-7. Tonight we will continue our study but before we do we must do a little review so as to get our minds on the text that is before us.

The Sermon on the Mount does not show us the way of salvation but it shows us the way of righteous living. Let us consider a statement that Jesus made before He preached the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:4:17

*¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent:** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

The Word "**repent**" is very important here. Jesus calls for repentance in chapter 4 and then as we come to chapter 5 He shows His disciples and us what repentance looks like. In the Sermon on the Mount we will find the description of the life that is controlled by the Holy Spirit. It will be in complete contrast to the life that is controlled by the flesh and influenced by the world.

When we were together the last time we began to look at the Beatitudes which are found in 5:3-12. As we approach this section we will notice that the word "blessed" is used 8 times. To the people of Jesus day this word would have grasped their attention. To those people the word meant "divine joy and perfect happiness" and was used

to describe the joy that could only be obtained by the gods or the dead. To them it was something that was impossible for a person walking this earth to attain. The word "blessed" pointed to an inner satisfaction that did not depend upon outward circumstances.

There were 3 reasons that we discussed as to why the Jesus opened His sermon with this word.

1. The word "blessed" was used for the purpose of correcting the world's teaching that says joy and happiness are found in the riches of this world.
2. The word "blessed" was used to give encouragement to the weak and the poor who received the gospel, by assuring them that true happiness was not just for those who possessed gifts, graces, comforts, and stood in a place of great usefulness; but even the least in the kingdom of heaven, whose heart was upright with God, was happy in the honors and the privileges of that kingdom.
3. The word "blessed" was used to invite souls to the Jesus Christ.

So there are 3 reasons why the word "blessed" is used 8 times here in the beginning of Jesus sermon.

In our last study we considered the first of the beatitudes.

Notice Matthew 5:3

To be poor in spirit really can be best understood in 3 points:

1. It is to be content with whatever lot God has given to us. It is a willingness to be emptied of all worldly wealth.

Philippians 4:12

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

2. It is to never lose sight of what we were before Jesus saved us and to always remember where we have come from and to keep at the front of our minds we are still sinful.
3. It is to have the proper view of our own righteousness and strength and to depend completely upon the Lord for His righteousness and strength.

Now we come to the next of the beatitudes.

Notice Matthew 5:4

When I first look at this I see what appears to be a contradiction of terms. Jesus says, "Blessed (happy, filled with joy) are they that mourn". The world tells us that the truly happy person is the person that has no sorrow or that has no grief. When we look at what Jesus says here it makes me wonder how a person can be happy and mourn at the same time.

Let us first of all consider the "mourning" that Jesus is referring to here. In the Bible there 3 kinds of mourning:

1. Natural mourning.

This is the sadness that everyone in the world experiences multiple times throughout their lives. This mourning comes because of shattered dreams, loss of worldly possessions and wealth, loss of loved ones, and the list goes on and on. You get the picture. This old world hands to every person a share of this natural mourning.

2. Sinful mourning.

This would be a sorrow brought on by sinful actions but the person who lives this sorrow is not sorrowful to the point of repenting, forsaking and seeking forgiveness of their actions. They just continue on that same path with regret only for the sorrow they feel not for their actions. An example of this would be Judas. Judas was sorry for what he had done when he betrayed Jesus but he never sought God's forgiveness. His sorrow was so bad that it took him down a path of suicide.

3. Godly mourning.

This mourning is brought on by the Holy Spirit and it is a godly sorrow that leads to repentance. This is a spiritual mourning and we know this by the previous verse that tells us blessed are the poor in spirit.

Let us get a little more detailed about this "mourning". It begins with the conviction of the Holy Spirit before a true conversion. You see there can never be a true conversion of the soul until there is a genuine sorrow over our sin. There are many people that have acknowledged that they are sinners but they have never sorrowed over their sin. Without the sorrow there will be no repentance and therefore there is no true conversion.

Remember the woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her hair.

Luke 7:44

⁴⁴ And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my

feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

Her tears were because of her sin and in the presence of Jesus her heart was broken because of the sins she had committed. Let us consider the words of the prodigal son.

Luke 15:17-19

¹⁷ *And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*

¹⁸ *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,*

¹⁹ *And am no more worthy to be called thy son:* make me as one of thy hired servants.

We can sense the sorrow in the heart of this man because of his sin. Consider the words and the actions of the publican.

Luke 18:13

¹³ *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*

Why did he pound upon his chest, because he felt the sorrow of sin deep within his heart. Consider the words of those who heard Peter's preaching in Acts 2.

Acts 2:36-38

³⁶ *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

In all of these verses we see a godly sorrow over sin in the life of the individuals. This was a godly sorrow that led them to repentance. That is the very mourning that Jesus was referring to here.

2 Corinthians 7:10

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

This morning comes into one's life as the person's eyes are opened to sin. But it is not just a sorrow at the onset of salvation.

Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn", He did not say, "Blessed are they that have mourned".

This mourning will always exist in the life of a believer as he or she journeys through this world and lives in this body of sin. This mourning comes from a sensitive heart, one that is very sensitive to sin. It comes from a tender conscience and a broken heart that hates sin when it comes into your life. This mourning comes as we draw nearer to our Savior and we realize that every one of our sins caused Him to be nailed to the old rugged cross.

Some people would say that the Christian has nothing to mourn over but that is not true. We mourn over the sins we now commit whether

they be the sins of commission or the sins of omission - they are all a daily grief to the believer whose has a sensitive heart or the believer that is filled with the Holy Spirit. You see the more we grow in the Lord the more we are brought into a deeper understanding of the sinfulness of our old nature. That is what we see in the Apostle Paul's life in Romans 7.

Romans 7:24

²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Paul hated the sin that he found himself giving into in his life.

It is the very same in the life of every believer today that is sensitive to the convictions of the Spirit and the conscience. There is not one person walking in fellowship with the Lord that has not been filled with a godly sorrow because of what they did or did not do.

That is the very mourning that Jesus was speaking of here.

Romans 8:22-23

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Every true believer has and will groan within themselves because of the presence and the practice of sin in their lives.

Now we must return to our verse because I don't want you think that Jesus said we would be blessed because we mourn. That is not what He was saying. The blessing is because of what is said at the end of the verse.

Matthew 5:4

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

The word "for" is a connective and it introduces the reason for the blessing and the reason for the blessing is that the mourner **shall be** (future tense) comforted. Now I find it very interesting that Jesus did not say the mourners would be judged for their sin. He says they will be comforted.

Let us consider the comfort that Jesus speaks of here with 3 points from the Scriptures.

1. There is a comfort that comes with conversion.

When the Holy Spirit begins to work on a sinner's life there is the conviction and the weight of guilt which they become fully aware of. Once the decision is made to accept Jesus Christ as Savior there is then a comfort and a peace that words cannot describe.

Matthew 11:28

²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

When a dear soul comes to Christ for the forgiveness of sin there is such a weight of guilt and burden of sin that is lifted from the back of the sinner. This comfort comes from knowing that all your sin has been forgiven. It comes from knowing that the blood of Jesus Christ was

shed for you and now you are under that blood. It comes from knowing that you are now accepted not because of your works but because of His finished work upon the cross.

Ephesians 1:6-7

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

2. There is a present comfort for the dear saint that mourns over sin at the present time.

There is not one believer that has not mourned over their sin and then praised God after their sin was confessed and their fellowship was restored.

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The one who is in sorrow because of the chastening of the Lord on their lives is comforted because of what the Scriptures tell us about God's chastening.

Hebrews 12:11

¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

There is a present comfort for us as we walk the path of this life and have our struggles with sin for we have within us the Comforter.

John 14:16-17

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

3. There is a final comfort when we leave this world.

Luke 16:25

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

The comfort of heaven will far exceed the sorrow of this earth.

Conclusion:

True comfort comes from a deep knowledge of the Lord. For it is from that deep knowledge that we become more sensitive to sin, it is from that knowledge that we come to know the comfort He has for us, and it is from that knowledge that we learn to walk by faith in the Truth of His Word. It is then we begin to see the riches of His grace.

Ephesians 1:6-8

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Wednesday July 4, 2012

⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

⁸ Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;