

Blessed are Those Who Mourn

Study of Matthew, Part 14

Matthew 5:4

Sermon Outline

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

I. We have a Savior who Mourns

- A. Jesus mourns over the effect and impact of sin. (Jn. 11:33-38)
- B. Jesus mourns over the unrepentant who sin. (Mt. 23:37-39)
- C. Jesus mourns over the weight of bearing sin. (Mt. 26:37-46)
- D. Jesus groans and intercedes on our behalf now! (Rm. 8:26+)

II. We are to be a People Who Mourn

- A. Over our own personal sin. (Lk. 7:36-50, Is. 6:1-5)
 1. How it offends our God.
 2. How it breaks our fellowship with God.
 3. How it breaks our fellowship with others.
 4. How it wrecks our lives.
- B. Over the sin of the world. (Ps. 119:134-136)
 1. Over the effects of sin.
 2. Over the extent of sin.
 3. Over the end of sin.

III. We are Blessed When We Mourn

- A. Comforted now. (2 Cor. 1:3-4, I Thes. 4:18, II Thes. 2:16)
- B. Comforted forever. (Rev. 21:3-5)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

– Rev. 21:3-5

Blessed are Those Who Mourn

Study of Matthew, Part 14

Matthew 5:4

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Why would Jews of Jesus day have been so shocked by these beatitudes in light of 4:17 and 4:23? What kind of kingdom were the Jews expecting? In light of that kind of kingdom, how might have these first beatitudes have been rephrased?
2. How outlandish and whacky does "happy are the unhappy" sound to modern ears, to our ears? How does the world view mourning and mourning people? Is mourning something the world values?
3. What does Jesus mourn over? What doesn't he mourn over? How does He "mourn" in a sense for us now?
4. What are we to mourn over? How does sin affect our lives? How does sin affect the world in which we live?
5. How does this second beatitude follow upon and flow from the first? What is the relationship between the beatitudes and our description as salt and light in 5:13-16? How do we be salt and light?
6. How did you respond to the Mardi Gras disturbance last weekend? How are you responding to the gay marriage issues that are swirling around us now? How does "Blessed are those who mourn" relate to these contemporary issues? Other issues?
7. Why is condemnation easier than crying? Why is militancy easier than mourning? Why is it easier not to care than to cry? Why is it easier to make fun of than to mourn?
8. How do you fend off and fight mourning in your own life? Why?
9. When our Central Coast community looks at Grace Church do they see a mourning community? If not, what do they see? What would it look like for us as a church to begin to mourn as Jesus describes?
10. What might happen if we began to live this out? (look at v. 16!)
11. Is mourning mutually exclusive with rejoicing? Is it possible to be and do both at the very same time?
12. What is the blessing promised for those who mourn? How is that experienced partially now? In full later?

