

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO MOURNS

Text: Matthew 5:4

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by describing foundational attitudes that are necessary to follow Him.
4. The first “beatitude” is to be poor in spirit.
5. The second “beatitude is to mourn...

I. The Context

- A. The Sermon on the Mount
- B. The Beatitudes build upon one another.
 1. One who is poor in spirit will acknowledge that he is a sinner.
 2. He will also realize that he cannot save himself.
 3. Thus, he will also become one who mourns over his sin.

II. The Characteristic

- A. “Mourn”
 1. Literally, “signifying grief manifested, too deep for concealment; to weep audibly; to grieve; to wail; to lament.”
 2. Consider the book of Lamentations...
 3. How different is the teaching of Christ from the teaching of men!
 - a. Man says the genuinely happy person does not weep.
 - b. Man says, “Grown men don’t cry.”
 - c. V. P. Black said, “*The whole structure of the man of the world is to avoid mourning, sorrow, and pain.*”
- B. Three kinds of sorrow...
 1. Natural Sorrow
 - a. The common lot of man in a world of sin (Job 14:1; Ecc. 3:1-4).
 - b. Yet, natural sorrow serves some good purpose.
 - i. It teaches about life.
“I walked a mile with pleasure, she chattered all the way. But left me none the wiser for all she had to say. I walked a mile with sorrow, and ne’er a word said she, but oh the things I learned from her, when sorrow walked with me” (Robert Browning Hamilton).
 - ii. It teaches about sin (Rom. 5:12).
 - iii. It teaches about heaven (Rev. 21:4).
 2. Worldly Sorrow
 - a. Paul calls it “the sorrow of the world” (2 Cor. 7:10).
 - b. Worldly sorrow is regret due to the discovery or consequences of sin.
 - c. It is not sorrow over the sin itself – thus, it produces death.

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- d. Consider Judas (Matt. 27:3-5).
- 3. Godly Sorrow
 - a. This is sorrow for sin – a heart that is broken because he realizes the nature and seriousness of his sin.
 - i. Some become conscious of their sin and rejoice in it
 - ii. Others become aware of their sin and ignore it.
 - iii. The blessed man becomes aware of his sin and mourns it.
 - b. Consider the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:14-19).
 - c. Consider Peter (Luke 22:61-62).
 - d. Consider Saul (Acts 9:1-9, 17-18; 22:16).
 - e. It is important to keep our hearts open to the Gospel!
 - i. Eph. 4:19 – “*being past feeling*” = to become apathetic or insensitive to shame. {Zodhiates says this is where we get the word *analgesic*.}
 - ii. 1 Tim. 4:2 – “*seared with a hot iron*” = Gr. *kauterizo*, cauterized.
 - iii. Heb. 3:8, 15; 4:7 – hard hearts.
 - iv. Contrast with David (2 Sam. 12:13; Psa. 51:17).
 - f. It is important to train our consciences!
 - g. It is important to train the consciences of our children!
 - h. It is important to sorrow over the sins of others (Gal. 6:1-2; Jam. 5:19-20).

III. The Christian

- A. The person who mourns over sin will become a Christian.
- B. He will understand his guilt and need for redemption.
- C. He will mourn over his sins and repent of them.
- D. Thus, he will receive comfort from God.
 - 1. The word “comfort” literally means, “to call to one’s side for the purpose of receiving consolation.”
 - 2. The one who mourns will call God to His side for consolation.
 - 3. He does this by obeying the Gospel.
 - 4. The result is reconciliation – thus, comfort!
 - 5. “*The outcome of such mourning is reconciliation with God. It ends in pardon and peace that passeth all understanding*” (Chappell).
 - 6. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Conclusion: *Are you poor in spirit?*