“The King’s Blessed People: Happy Mourners”

Matthew 5:1-12

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Earl Pleger, Hayden Bible Church, 7/31/22)

How are we truly blessed? In this series we will see how the King’s followers are blessed by a life of faith in Him and obedience to Him. The overall theme of the Beatitudes is blessedness, spiritual happiness. Spiritual happiness is found by a believer who grasps how to live, in spite of our pre-existing condition of sin. Spiritual happiness is found when we live with eternity in mind. Worldly happiness is characterized by one who is only concerned with things that our temporary. Which definition fits you?

Sometimes mourning happens as a result of our own sin. Sometimes it happens due to things outside of our control. Sometimes mourning can debilitate a person. Mourning can happen due to our own sin, the sins of others, the sins of believers, the sins of non-believers. Many of us experience mourning for our children or grandchildren who have walked away from their faith. Mourning is real and it hurts.

Sins that lead to mourning can be covert or overt. They can be sins of commission or sins of omission. But know this: all sin is not equal in relation to ourselves and others, but all sin before God deserves and demands eternal punishment. This fact alone should induce mourning. Today we will look at three elements of God-centered mourning:

* Sin is committed
* Contrition takes place
* Comfort comes

Let’s start with sin. Even Paul struggled with his sin (Rom. 7:15-23). Fortunately, he gave us those glorious verses at the end of the chapter that give us hope (Rom. 7:24-25)!

Even Job sinned. He mourned about his own sin and the sin of those around him (Job 1:5). He took sin seriously. He intimately knew suffering and loss. He was blessed before his suffering, and he was blessed after his suffering. His suffering was real and his mourning was real. He still held fast with integrity. Finally, he presented questions and accusations to God. In Job 40:1-5, he showed contrition, but not yet a broken heart. And then in 42:1-6 we see repentance that leads to the joy of restoration. Obedience in acknowledging sin doesn’t always result in good fortune, but it ALWAYS results in spiritual blessing!

Even David, a man after God’s own heart, sinned. In 2Sam. 11, we read of David’s sin against Bathsheba, against Uriah… against God. After committing adultery, David went into damage control. He brought Uriah home, but that didn’t work. He had him killed, but that brought no comfort or peace. When Nathan told David about the rich man taking the poor man’s lamb, David shouted, “That man deserves to die!” And then, in one of the most pointed remarks in all of Scripture, Nathan replied, “You are that man!” Finally, David confesses and comfort follows (Ps. 51:7-12). The joy of our salvation happens when we repent and confess and follow through. The joy of our salvation happens when we follow through with obedience in response to our sin.

How would you define a mourner? Remorseful, but not miserable. Repentant, but still in a close relationship with our Lord. Let’s ask God to reveal any sin in our lives, so that we may confess it and be truly repentant. That’s when our Comfort comes (2Thess. 2:16-17).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Pastor Earl used a paradoxical title: “Happy Mourners”. How can one be both at the same time?
2. Sin brings mourning, but are all sins the same? Discuss.
3. David’s cry for change in Ps. 51 is a cry for “a new heart- one that is constantly being renewed” (Paul David Tripp). How does that happen?
4. Those who mourn shall be comforted. But why? Read 2Corinth. 1:3-6 for one answer. Is this your experience? Discuss.

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (Robinson)

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,   
tune my heart to sing thy grace;   
streams of mercy, never ceasing,   
call for songs of loudest praise.   
Teach me some melodious sonnet,   
sung by flaming tongues above.   
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,   
mount of thy redeeming love.   
  
2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer;   
hither by thy help I'm come;   
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,   
safely to arrive at home.   
Jesus sought me when a stranger,   
wandering from the fold of God;   
he, to rescue me from danger,   
interposed his precious blood.   
  
3. O to grace how great a debtor   
daily I'm constrained to be!   
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,   
bind my wandering heart to thee.   
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,   
prone to leave the God I love;   
here's my heart, O take and seal it,   
seal it for thy courts above.