

Morning Sermon January 12, 2020

“Blessed Mourning” Matthew 5:4

**<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Matthew 5:4 (NKJV)**

*This verse could easily be translated, “Happy are those, and only those, who are crying all the time!” To an ungodly, fun oriented world, such a statement seems ridiculous! What about to a worldly church? Or to a worldly Christian?*

*Jesus’ half-brother James wrote something similar when he wrote –*  
**<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,  
James 1:2 (NKJV)**

*What does this verse mean? How do we apply it to our lives?*

I. *Think of this verse as God’s wisdom, God’s thinking for life in an ungodly world –*

1. *God’s ways are different, higher, better than ours –*

**<sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9 (NKJV)**

A. *Jesus speaks to us as the Son of God, the Word made flesh –  
John 1:14; He is our Eternal Creator –*

**<sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:3 (NKJV)**

*He knows us better than we know ourselves, He knows what is good for us!*

B. *The wise king Solomon, with God-given wisdom, agreed with Jesus about mourning and sorrow –*

**<sup>2</sup> Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart. <sup>3</sup> Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. <sup>4</sup> The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. Ecclesiastes 7:2–4 (NKJV)**

- *The house of mourning is a funeral home*
- *The end of all men is death*
- *Sorrow, Solomon says is better than laughter, because it improves the heart!*
- *Wisdom is in the funeral home*
- *Foolishness is at the party*

2. *Yet, In another place, Solomon says –*

**<sup>22</sup> A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)**

*What do we learn from this verse, especially in relation to mourning?*

A. *There is a place for merriment, like medicine, small doses!*

B. *Not all mourning or sorrow is good –*

**<sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)**

II. *What is godly sorrow? What kind of mourning is blessed?*

1. *Godly sorrow produces repentance, leading to salvation!  
Those who mourn rightly are blessed, because comforted!*

2. *Mourning is usually connected to death, to funerals, we see this in Scripture -*

**<sup>17</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider and call for the mourning women, That they may come; And send for skillful wailing women, That they may come. <sup>18</sup> Let them make haste And take up a wailing for us, That our eyes may run with tears, And our eyelids gush with water. Jeremiah 9:17–18(NKJV)**

For long centuries it was the custom in the East to not only mourn the lost of a loved one with great lamentations, but, if the family could afford it, to also hire professional mourners. They would range from a few to a great number, depending on the family’s finances. Each group of mourners would try to outdo other similar groups in their display of agonized bereavement. They would tear their clothes and throw ashes and dirt upon themselves, sing in a sort of chorus mingled with shrill screams and loud wailing, and

distort their bodies in various ways to show the uncontrollable depth of their anguish. Swaying back and forth in a kind of melancholy dance to the thrumming music of tambourines, they would recount the virtues of the deceased, calling him or her by terms of tenderest endearment, and plaintively ask of him why he left his family and friends. With wonderful ingenuity these hired mourners would seek to make a genuine lamentation among the visitors who came to the funeral, pointing out those among them who had also suffered the loss of a loved one and the agony and suffering they felt, thus eliciting cries of true grief from those who are sorrowing. J. M. Freeman & H. J. Chadwick; Manners and Customs of the Bible

3. *This mourning, not the acting, but “true grief” is what Jesus is talking about, and yet this is the grief / mourning that connects death to its ROOT CAUSE – Sin! godly sorrow produces repentance...*

*And sin to its due judgment, death & Hell –*

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, ... Romans 6:23 A (NKJV)

<sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, <sup>50</sup> and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 13:49–50 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Luke 12:5 (NKJV)

*Our culture, because of Atheism and Evolution has wrongly deduced that death is just the natural end of life, not the moral judgment of sin! So instead of repenting of sin, we revel in it, destroying ourselves!*

4. *Sin in a spiritually healthy, alive person wakes the qualms of conscience which often spark even in the hearts of the ungodly, as they too are created in God’s image –*

<sup>14</sup> for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

<sup>15</sup> who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing

or else excusing *them*) <sup>16</sup> in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel. Romans 2:14–16 (NKJV)

*A. Even Judas had this ungodly sorrow –*

<sup>3</sup> Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, <sup>4</sup> saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” ... Matthew 27:3–4 A(NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. Matthew 27:5 (NKJV)

*B. Peter’s weeping before Christ, found forgiveness, comfort – His sorrow for sin was mixed with true faith -*

<sup>60</sup> But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” <sup>62</sup> So Peter went out and wept bitterly. Luke 22:60–62 (NKJV)

*III. What is blessed mourning for us?*

*1. It is Christ’s prescribed road to Himself, while He is the Way, the Truth and the Life –*

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)

*2. It is the Christ-like way as He is known as the Man of Sorrows –  
<sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... Isaiah 53:3 A (NKJV)*

*A. His sorrow was because of our sins – 2 Corinthians 5:21*

*B. We are right to mourn over the sins of others -*

<sup>136</sup> Rivers of water run down from my eyes, Because men do not keep Your law. Psalm 119:136 (NKJV)

*C. Matthew 5:4 teaches a continued mourning, while on earth ...*

*3. Godly sorrow leads to comfort and godly joy – Comforted – from the Greek – παρακαλέω The Holy Spirit is called παράκλητος KJV Another Comforter – John 14:16 We will have spiritual comfort and joy – Galatians 5:22*

*Arnold Brevick*