

February 27, 2011
"Blessed Mourning"
Zechariah 12:10-14

I think one of the most radically wonderful statements in Scripture is that famous beatitude, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

What is so wonderful about it?

- *First, it is about Happiness, Blessed means Happy and so it is saying happy are those who cry!*
- *Second, the mourning here is deep, powerfully emotional mourning! Even a continued weeping and wailing!*
- *Third, the "they" in this verse literally means emphatically that they and ONLY THEY have this blessing!*

Of course not all morning, sorrow or grieving leads to blessing –

Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. (2 Corinthians 7:9-10 NKJ)

This passage is speaking of that mourning that leads to repentance, change of mind, change of heart:

I. It is a Spirit inspired mourning –

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10 NKJ)

God's Holy Spirit inspires godly sorrow, He convicts us of sin –

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:⁹ "of sin, because they do not believe in Me;¹⁰ "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;¹¹ "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:8-11 NKJ)

II. It is a Christ focused mourning –

1. *He does this by opening our eyes to Christ crucified, usually as Christ is PREACHED –*

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."³⁹ "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:36-39 NKJ)

- A. *It sees Christ's beauty, He does not deserve the cross; I do!*
 - B. *It sees the horror of sin and its deserved judgment*
2. *It is a sorrow / mourning accompanied by faith –*

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)

This is different from despair –

III. It is a great mourning –

"In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. (Zechariah 12:11 NKJ)

Here morning is compared to the very worst they knew –

Hadad-rimmon = "Hadad of the pomegranates" I) a place in the valley of Megiddo where a national lamentation was held for the death of King Josiah

Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.²³ And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded."²⁴ His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in *one of the tombs of his fathers*. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.²⁵ Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they *are* written in the Laments. (2 Chronicles 35:22-25 NKJ)

IV. It is a national mourning –

"And the land shall mourn..." (Zechariah 12:12 NKJ)

1. See the previous point, this is picturing a national mourning –
2. A national mourning over sin is one of the first steps toward REVIVAL –

"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJ)

This applies even to Gentile nations / states / cities –

So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey *in extent*.⁴ And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.⁶ Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat in ashes.⁷ And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.⁹ Who can tell *if* God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?¹⁰ Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. (Jonah 3:3-10 NKJ)

It is something we should pray for!

V. *It is a family mourning –*

"And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;¹³ the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; (Zechariah 12:12-13 NKJ)

"all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves. (Zechariah 12:14 NKJ)

- Who are the families? David = King David / Royal family
- Nathan either Nathan the prophet or Nathan a son of David
- Levi = the Priest and priesthood
- Shimei – a descendent of Levi / little known
- All families

1. David's family could hint at a political mourning / the King in Nineveh called for a fast
2. Levi's family could point at a religious revival and mourning
3. Three is Nathan is the prophet you have a King, a Prophet and a Priest, also an ordinary person --- this mourning brings about general SANCTIFICATION of society!

VI. *It is a personal mourning - and their wives by themselves*
"all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves. (Zechariah 12:14 NKJ)

"and their wives by themselves" is repeated 5 times ---

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24 NKJ)

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31 NKJ)

The closest human relationship is between a husband and wife and yet confession of sin, our relationships with God are even CLOSER, more personal! There will be things God knows about you even your spouse will not know!

This is that breaking of fallow ground, that breaking of and softening of a hard heart –

Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For *it is* time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you. (Hosea 10:12 NKJ)