

Blessed are those who Mourn

Story: A Brush with Death

- only in an honest evaluation of our position are we able to experience gratitude or joy, or comfort.
- We think that 'ignorance is bliss', but it is not, ignorance is DEATH.

So we are back on the mount where there are two concentric circles, and Jesus says about his disciples:

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

- Jesus is talking about a spiritual condition, not an emotional condition.
- He is not talking about the grief that comes in tragedy, he is talking about the spiritual grief that comes when we examine our own position. (Remember what it means to be 'poor in spirit')
- We must be emptied before we're filled: poorness of spirit is emptying of ourselves, mourning over that we are helpless before God SO THAT we can be filled by the Spirit (comforted).
- A very real sense of sin must come and be mourned over before we can experience the true joy (comfort) of salvation.

True followers of Christ mourn over sin:

Romans 8:18-24

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved.

1. They mourn over their own sin.

- Comfort and joy come by the understanding that our own sin has been paid for, that we are free from what we were and of the punishment we rightly deserve.

2. They mourn over the sin they see around them.

- Sin will ultimately be defeated and God's heart will not always be broken over the sin piled up throughout history.

3. They mourn because they understand God's perspective toward sin.

- Sin defies God's law. It dishonours him, it is in opposition toward it. He hates it. When we get a grasp of God's position toward sin and then see it rampant in our lives and in the world we mourn over the dishonour it shows our creator.

THE BIG IDEA:

The surprising benefits of mourning are comfort and joy.

- Though our sins and sinfulness is continual, our justification before God is once and for all.
- As Christians our mourning is always replaced, or overtaken by our comfort and joy because though we are sinful, we are declared righteous, though sin abounds, Christ's returning and victory are imminent, and though sin dishonours God he has provided a way to redeem sinners and to defeat sin.
- The deeper our sense is that we needed to be saved and that the world is full of corruption, the more joy we find in our being saved and the world being reconciled.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Practise mourning regularly.

PSALM 51

[SLIDE 1]

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

[SLIDE 2]

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

[SLIDE 3]

- ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it
¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

2. Turn toward the one who promises comfort.

Romans 6:13

- Gospel appeal to follow the one who brings the only lasting and true joy.