

**The Beatitudes**  
Part 2  
“Blessed Are They Who Mourn”

**Introduction**

1. Last week we began a study of the beatitudes found in Matthew 5. (Matt. 5:3-12).
  - a. In these beatitudes Jesus was teaching how to have true and lasting happiness.
  - b. Pursuing these beatitudes of Jesus will lead to the abundant life now and forever.
2. We studied the first beatitude that stressed the importance of humility to have eternal life with God in heaven.
  - a. We must realize we cannot save ourselves though we must act to be right with God.
    - 1) Doing nothing will not bring us into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - 2) Our race, intelligence, power, wealth, education, beauty, fame, talents mean nothing to God.
    - 3) These things may impress others and gain their favor, but they do not impress God nor will they save us.
  - b. Later in this same sermon Jesus emphatically emphasized the importance of obeying God. (Matt. 7:21-23).

Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven {will enter.}

Matt 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

Matt 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

- c. Jesus stressed that only those who have an active, obedient faith will be saved.
- d. Obedience does not merit salvation, but there is no salvation without it.
- e. Only those who do the will of God will be saved. (Matt. 7:21).
- f. As Jesus pointed out, it was possible for a person to prophesy, to cast out demons and do many miracles and stand condemned in the judgment.
- g. Even doing miraculous things was not a substitute for doing the will of God.
  - 1) **Judas** was able to do miraculous things like all the apostles (Matt. 10:1-8), but he lost his soul.
  - 2) **Paul** was able to do miraculous things and even raise the dead (2 Cor. 12:11-12; Acts 20:9-10), but this did not guarantee salvation. (1 Cor.9:27).

1 Cor 9:27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

g. **James stressed a dead faith will never save.** (Jas. 2:14-17).

James 2:14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

James 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

James 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for {their} body, what use is that?

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, {being} by itself.

h. Jesus taught humility without action [obedience] has no saving value. (Matt. 7:21).

I. We must be submissive to God and obey His commandments. (1 Jn. 5:3).

j. God will only save those who draw near to Him. (Jas. 4:8).

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

3. Only those who humble themselves and totally surrender to God will be saved and find true and lasting happiness.

4. This is strange to the world and most often rejected by the masses, but happiness in this world and the world to come is achieved through humble submission to God and His commandments.

5. One who claims to love God without obedience is a liar and does not know God. (1 Jn. 2:3-5).

1 John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2:4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1 John 2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

6. **This week we will study the second beatitude found in Matthew 5:4.**

7. This beatitude logically follow the first beatitude.

a. Those who come to realize they are spiritually destitute [cannot save themselves] will mourn over sin.

b. They come to realize they are lost and mourn over their lost and hopeless state.

c. **This mourning, assuming it leads to repentance and obedience, leads to God's comfort - God's forgiveness.**

7. This beatitude sounds really strange to mortal ears, but it must not be ignored or rejected!

## Second Beatitude

**MAT 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

- The word "blessed" is used in the sense of "happy."
- It is not describing worldly happiness, but the true and lasting happiness that comes from being right with God.

- **Being right with God is the most important thing in the world for man.** (Eccles. 12:13).

Ecc 12:13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, {is:} fear God and keep His commandments, because this {applies to} every person.

- The New King James has “for this is man’s all” and the ASV has “for this is the whole *duty* of man.”
- Fearing God and keeping His commandments is why we were created and it is our purpose now and in eternity.
- The time we spend in this world should be spent glorifying God and preparing ourselves to spend eternity with Him.
- On another occasion Jesus worded a similar beatitude like this beatitude. (Lk. 6:21).

Luke 6:21 "Blessed {are} you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. **Blessed {are} you who weep now, for you shall laugh.** IEB has “you who crying now, be happy because you will laugh.”

### Meaning of “Mourn”

1. The word “mourn” comes from the Greek “pentheo” [pen **theh** oh] meaning “mourn, lament, bewail, grieve.”
  - a. **It does not mean mourning should be our perpetual state**, but it does mean we should grieve over sin until it is forgiven.
  - b. It means we should grieve over sin - not rejoice or boast about sin.
  - c. God calls us to repentance that we may pass from a state of mourning to a state of peace and happiness.
  - d. True peace is the result of being right with God.
  - e. **Saving laughter is the result of submitting to God now and in eternity.**
2. Once again beatitude really sounds strange to people in the past and to people of our generation
  - a. Mourning is seldom viewed as a good thing though there is a time for mourning.
  - b. Even believers struggle with this beatitude and fail to understand its purpose and promised blessing.
  - c. They view mourning as a bad thing - not something that leads to God’s comfort.
  - d. Mourning, by itself, is destructive.

### All Mourners Will Not Be Blessed

1. Some people mourn because they are being punished for doing something wrong.
  - a. Some mourners, enduring punishment, change and repent.
  - b. Many enduring punishment continue to be rebellious against God and have no intent to repent and draw near to God.

2. Some mourn because they are disappointed or have been humiliated.

- a. They may mourn because they have lost a companion, other loved ones, a job or other things important to them.
- b. They may mourn because they were beat or defeated.
- c. There are numerous reasons why a person may mourn, but these mournings do not save.
- d. Some remain in a perpetual state of mourning thinking this pleases God or others.
- e. Some people, like Judas, mourn because they have done something really bad. (Matt. 27:3-5).

Matt 27:3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Matt 27:4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See {to that} yourself!"

Matt 27:5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.

- 1) Judas was very remorseful, as he should have been, for his betrayal of Jesus.
- 2) He could have repented [like Peter did] and been forgiven, but his mourning led him to commit suicide.
- 3) **Jesus had earlier given this warning.** (Matt. 26:24).

Matt 26:24 "The Son of Man {is to} go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

- f. **Some let mourning be an end within itself**, but perpetual mourning is destructive to one's self and to others.

### **Perpetual Mourning**

- g.. Perpetual mourning does not please God and demonstrates a lack of faith in His power and marvelous grace.

1) **A perpetual mourner drives people away!**

2) A perpetual mourner will never be the light of the world nor be instrumental in bringing people to the Lord.

3. Paul described the kind of mourning that will be blessed in 2 Corinthians 7:10.

2 Cor 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to {the will} {of} God produces a repentance without regret, {leading} to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- "the sorrow that is according to {the will} {of} God is a "godly sorrow."
- **"Godly sorrow" is a realization that all sin is a sin against God.**
- **Joseph** had this realization. (Gen. 39:9)

Gen 39:9 "There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?" Joseph realized giving adultery with her would be a sin against her, Potiphar, his people, the Egyptians, but most of all it would be a sin against God.

- **David** had the realization that sin is against God. (Psa. 51:3-4).

Ps 51:3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me [always on my mind].

Ps 51:4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So th

- a. We are to mourn [have godly sorrow] over personal sins, but mourning alone is not enough.
- b. **This “godly sorrow” must lead to repentance.**
- c. Paul had great sorrow because of his persecution of Jesus and Christians.
  - 1) He was led into Damascus where he spent three days mourning and praying. (Acts 9:8-9).
  - 2) He did not eat for drink during that time.
  - 3) He had Godly sorrow that was leading him to repent.
  - 4) All of this was not enough and he was still lost in sin until he obeyed the commandment of Ananias. (Acts 22:16).
- d. Repentance is not just being sorry or having deep regret.
  - 1) Godly sorrow depends one change his/her life and surrender to the Father and the Son.
  - 2) It demands one change and walk in the way of God. (Psa. 1:1-2).

Ps 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

Ps 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

- c. True repentance is a turning away from a life of sin and turning to God.
- d. Once a person truly repents he/she needs to accept God’s forgiveness and cease mourning.
- e. **God blots out, ceases to hold forgiven sins against us.** (Heb. 10:17).

Heb 10:17 "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

- f. When we repent of our sins to God, He ceases to hold those sins against us.
- g. **They will not be brought up again in the judgment.**

4. The alien sinner is forgiven at baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16), and the Christian is forgiven when he prays. (1 Jn. 1:7,9).

Acts 2:38 Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

5. Those who are faithful to death will be those who are forever comforted. (Rev. 2:10; 21:4).

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

Rev 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be {any} death; there will no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

### **Conclusion.**

1. Next week we will study the third beatitude stressing the importance of gentleness [meekness].
2. We will discover this beatitude logically follows the first two beatitudes and was not randomly uttered by our Lord.
3. This third beatitude seems really strange to most people, but only those who follow [obey] this beatitude will “inherit the earth.”
4. This lesson will focus on the meaning of the word “meek,” and on the meaning of the words “inherit the earth.”
5. We will make a detailed study of Christian meekness [gentleness] and what it means to “inherit the earth.”
6. There is a lot of misunderstanding in the world and in the religious world on the meaning of this beatitude.
7. We will look at many other scriptures on “gentleness” and let them interpret this beatitude for us.
8. One should always let Scriptures interpret Scriptures.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,  
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))