

11.1.20
Divine Comfort for the Spiritual Mourner
Matthew 5:4

As we continue our look at Jesus' first recorded sermon, it is important for us to remember the key that unlocks all the other keys available to us.

Let's refresh ourselves this morning with some of the passages and teaching from last week so we can make sure we are looking correctly at today's teaching.

Jesus said in **Matthew 16:19**, **"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."** NASB

Through Jesus' amazing work on the cross, not only does He bring you into the throne room of God but He also makes the keys to heaven available to you. These keys, which we identified last week as the teachings of Jesus, will unlock heavenly blessings and power that will work in you and through you to accomplish great things here on earth.

The master key though, is the one that has to be used in order to open the door to where the rest of the heavenly keys are found. And that master key is the first line of Jesus' sermon on the mount. **Matthew 5:3**, **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

Realizing and believing Jesus has and is the truth and the only way to true life and then having the child-like spirit of trust to come to Him, that is the master key which begins our journey of unlocking spiritual, heavenly realities.

As we read in **Hebrews 11:6**, “**And without faith it is impossible to please God, for they who come to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**”

As we come to Jesus we are rewarded with heavenly blessings.

Mathew 11:29, “**Take My Yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in hearts, and you will find rest for your souls.**”

Availing ourselves to Jesus’ teachings. This is the beginning of our journey.

Let’s begin with **Matthew 5:4**, “**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**”

For nine verses, nine teachings of Jesus, we are told there is a blessing for us as we enter into them. What does it mean to be blessed?

I don’t usually pull out the Greek translations but since blessed is mentioned so many times in this passage and throughout the Bible I thought it might be good to get a good working definition for it.

The Greek word for blessed is Makarios.

Definition: Blessed in the Greek is Makarios which means to be happy, to be envied, spiritually prosperous — with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of outward conditions.

As we look through the next several verses of Jesus’ teachings which is called the Beatitudes, we see how true the blessings of God are even though our outward conditions might be tough.

This does lead us into this second verse of this teaching, “Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.”

The thing we need to examine in this verse is what kind of mourning is going to be blessed by God’s comfort.

2 Corinthians 7:10, “For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

This could easily read for the mourning that is according to the will of God produces repentance, leading to salvation but the mourning of the world procures death.

There is a mourning which can happen in the world but does the promise to be comforted extend to everyone on the planet? Possibly, at times, in God’s great grace and mercy He may extend His comfort to some individuals who are not in a relationship with Him but that is not the norm is it? God’s great comfort comes through a relationship with Him.

One of the first ways

The point and following passages on the same slide...

- 1. A person can experience Godly comfort when they realize their sinful state in the sight of the holiness of God**

Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of God’s glorious standard.” NLT

Romans 6:23a, “For the wages of (our) sin is death...”

When God reveals to us the depth of our sinfulness and the penalty for it, we come, we weep, we mourn and we cry out to God for salvation, for comfort. I pray that has occurred in each of your lives.

How does God comfort us in this moment? Through the realization that Christ died for our sins.

1 Peter 2:24: “He (Jesus) Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.”

The comfort we first receive as we come mourning over our sinfulness is the fact that if we accept it, Jesus has paid the penalty for our sins. There is no greater comfort that we can receive is there?

We are no longer under God’s wrath and judgment. There is now no condemnation, no damnation for us. This work of Christ was something that came out of the powerful throne room of God. It was your first experience of the power of God’s comfort. Your sins have been removed and a relationship with Jesus has taken its place.

The second thing I believe

2. We can be comforted when we are struggling with sin even though we are in a relationship with the Creator of the universe

When we realize the staggering salvation that we have received in Jesus Christ, it causes us to want to pursue holiness. We want to be more like Jesus, and we want God to shape us into his image. We hate the sin that dwells within us and we mourn over all the times we fail to obey God.

When we do the things we don’t want to do, we mourn over our sin. We feel a deep sense of regret and even grief. We want to pursue Jesus with all our hearts, and when we see just how far short we fall, we experience a deep sense of mourning.

Of course, all this raises a hugely important question: why does Jesus say blessed are those who mourn? How can there be blessing when we mourn over sin? Because...

3. In our mourning, we experience the forgiving grace of God

It's a staggering truth. Sin is fundamentally offensive to God. When we sin, we are saying to God, "I believe that my ways are better than your ways and I choose to go my way instead of your way."

When we sin, we hurt God and break his heart. And so we mourn. And yet there is also a sweet promise for us in our mourning. Jesus promises that God himself will comfort us when we mourn over our sin.

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

When we mourn over our sins and confess them to God, something absolutely astounding happens. God is moved, a door is unlocked in heaven and a blessing is released. God forgives us and cleanses us from all unrighteous. Our relationship with God becomes sweeter and we have fresh fellowship with God.

There is a deep sweetness to repentance. We experience the grace and forgiveness of God in a unique way. God comforts us, assuring us that we are His, that our forgiveness is secure because of the gospel, and that nothing can separate us from His love.

When we repent of our sins, the Holy Spirit himself assures us that God has forgiven us and cleansed us from all unrighteousness.

There are a number of other things that we can mourn over. We can mourn over a loss, a death of a loved one. A loss of a job, a home, a spouse and many other things.

Certainly I believe God is there in great and wonderful way to comfort His children in those moments of mourning.

But here is a promise we can always rely on. When Jesus was ready to start His earthly public ministry He was in the temple and was asked to read. He turned in Isaiah to this passage.

Isaiah 61:1-3a, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord anointed me to bring good news to the humble; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the cloak of praise instead of a disheartened spirit...”

The comfort that Jesus offers to all who mourn with a godly sorrow is that the sin that they repent over can come to an end in their lives. Isaiah 61:3 says that Jesus came with glad tidings: “To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning.”

Are you one who mourns in Zion, in the presence of the Lord? Are you tired, not just of the consequences of your sin, but also of the fact that it keeps happening?

Are you brokenhearted over your inability to be genuinely good to others? Do you see how far you are from living the life described in the Bible? Do you grieve that you are bound and are a prisoner of the sin that dwells within you?

If you can answer yes, you will be comforted because your godly sorrow will produce repentance, which leads to action, to obedience and, ultimately, to salvation – to life. This is why it is written in **Ecclesiastes 7:3, “Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better.”**

Your mourning will be replaced with the oil of joy and gladness.

Blessed are those who mourn!

Lets pray