

## 071424 Beatitudes #2 Meeker Christian Church

from VCC 11/23/97

**Matthew 5:1-4** *And seeing the multitudes, He(Jesus) went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*  
*3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*  
*4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

By studying these kingdom attitudes listed in the beatitudes we learn to identify adjustments in our own thinking and living to achieve the life of Righteousness God created us for.

That is why he reinforces the beatitudes in the next chapter by saying: **Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

As always God is not going to do it for us. He provided the means of salvation through the life blood of Jesus. To accept Jesus and live the life and purpose for which we are created is in our court. And that means to get out of the boat of complacency in living and seek righteousness passionately and at all costs. **Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* To seek the kingdom of God results in learning and putting into practice these beatitudes that add to our character development that seeks always to honor God and His Righteousness.

These beatitude blessings reveal to each of us the self adjustments in our attitudes that give us the victory in making the transition from slavery to the world system - to true freedom and effective partnership in God's kingdom service on earth. ~~The inheritable reward of these attitudes and life action will be fulfilled in the ultimate destiny of eternal life in Heaven.~~

From an interlinear Bible we gain a deeper understanding of the specific application of the word “blessed” in the Greek: I read directly: 3107 /makários ("blessed") describes a believer in the enviable & ("fortunate") position of ~~from~~ receiving God's provisions (favor) – which (literally) extend (~~"make long, large"~~) His grace (benefits). This happens with receiving (obeying) the Lord's inbirthings of faith.

From that definition we understand that these blessings, inherent at birth are to be cultivated in life by the grace of God's provision for us. In other words a literal meaning is to go straight, to be happy, honest, and to prosper in spiritual faith as illustrated from Proverbs in:

**Proverbs 9:6** *Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding.*

**Proverbs 23:19** *Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way.*

**Matthew 5:4** *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

Mourn in this verse has the classic meaning of grief or sorrow as you can see from this dictionary definition: mourn is “to feel or show deep sorrow or regret for (someone or their death). To feel regret or sadness about the loss or disappearance of something.”

The use of the word “mourn” prompts memories and emotions of the passing of loved ones, friends or perhaps the loss or redirection hopes or dreams. Mourning is also a right response for shame and regret for sins in our lives. Sometimes that mourning is described as the loss of innocence. Mourning then, is the loss of sometime we once had or held dear.

Mourning is a sense of utter helplessness and momentary abandonment, of irrecoverable loss and loneliness. Unfortunately it often results in finding someone or something to blame. Sometimes that blame is directed at God, - as if being angry with God somehow vindicates the loss and ensuing mourning. The results without exception that I have observed, is not only distress and emptiness where purpose in life once abounded. But even worse is the effect upon others, especially immediate family. Do you remember Proverbs 22:6 from last week? Lets add a couple of more verses today to make this point: **Proverbs 22:4-6** *By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life. 5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them. 6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it*/// God is Sovereign, He knows all things and some way or another uses everything for the good of the soul involved and for future application for the lives of others. (**Reference is Romans 8:28**). Children will learn from those whom they are around. A person who is mourning and responding by being angry with God teaches their circle of influence, especially children to resent and resist God’s reaching out to them. Instead of seeking Righteousness they flee from righteousness. The seeking righteousness response in mourning is seen in nearly every proficient servant of the Lord. Let me illustrate the right response through the experience of mourning: first from the life and in the words of the Apostle Paul who ended up being the most prolific writer of our New Testament **Philippians 3:3-11** *3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.* When Paul dramatically on the road to Damascus experienced conversion and became a Jesus follower the described dreams of his life were lost and mourned but with conviction and passion, Paul became obedient to righteousness and the promises that go with it which led to him becoming the Apostle to the Gentiles..

Let me pause here because mourning is such an important and sensitive experience that everyone has to deal with. Jesus experienced it for the salvation portal for mankind./// Paul experienced it for the faith maturity of all who study his writing. My dad experienced it and it became a building block I observed for seeking righteousness and kingdom ministry. Let me tell you some of his story: I believe it was when Dad was thirteen years old on the old homestead at Jackrabbit that he and his dad hitched up the team and had gone to a nearby neighborhood coal bank. As they dug, a big rock broke loose and grandpa pushed dad out of the way only to be crushed to death himself. Dad ran the two miles or so to Emmersons for help, but grandpa was dead. My Dad was the only child and had to leave school before finishing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to try to support his mother who hated every moment on that old homestead. Dad's grandfather had been injured in a wagon accident while heading for a homestead, and died from the injuries. Dad's grandmother lived and died in a homestead dugout NE of Lay. Many years later the death of Dad's second of three sons - my 2 year old brother Gary before I was born. But somehow Dad survived through his mourning until his own tragic accidental death in 1986. I will go to my grave mourning - not knowing my gpa or brother, Dads untimely passing and my mother and remaining brother both dying of cancer. Those were all building blocks for my personal response to mourning and the accompanying promise of being comforted. It was modeled by those who had the most life impressions on my character..

I realize that is not an especially unique story as you all have had similar experiences in your heritage and personal lives. But praise God, by your presence in this assembly you have chose to trust God. **Proverbs 3:3-8** *Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.*

That is part of the promise of comfort resulting in mourning which in turn are the building blocks for the righteous character God graciously and lovingly provides.

**Matthew 5:4** *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

Personally and hopefully as an encouragement to each of you in dealing with mourning I share these thoughts: First God is Sovereign which means He is all powerful, ever present and has all knowledge. When we acknowledge those truths, whether we agree or understand has no bearing on their reality, they are the sacred truth, and the present application in our lives. We then have the choice to respond by making us bitter, or they making us better.. God is in control and with His divine attribute of agape love, perhaps by God's mercy we will be granted understanding on earth, perhaps not. They are to be accepted by faith and rejoice in the promised comfort we receive directly through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, our family, friends, and

the church family. Meanwhile it is left to us to grow our faith, increase our knowledge, share agape love in fellowship and kingdom service. A part of that faith growth is to follow the teaching of the Bible and take care of our physical body which as you know is the temple of the Holy Spirit preparing our soul/spirit for eternity.

I am sadly compelled to add that those who have chosen to live apart from God for whatever reason satan has convinced them to do so, have no hope of ever being in the presence of God to learn the purposes of circumstances of life through which God has been with us and brought us through for His eternal plan and purpose.///

A practical application is that mourning is a right and reasonable reaction to the world circumstances that have caused people to default to the powers of the prince of this earth. The lake of fire is their destiny. That disclosure adds to the urgency and passion for the Righteous persons to be a living witness reflecting the character traits that the beatitudes have produced in us.

Jesus used the word mourning in **Matthew 9:14-15** *Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.* Yet another application of mourning is used by Jesus to express that when things are as they are intended to be, there is no reason for mourning. The obvious extension of that usage is that in heaven there will be no mourning, for there will be nothing to cause its inhabitants to mourn. Their comfort began as a right response to mourning in the earthly lives will be the norm for heaven. For the unrighteous, and in their opposite eternal destination, there will be everlasting mourning for everything there -will be a cause for mourning. And there will be no source of comfort.

Another application for mourning is in **1 Corinthians 5:1-5 reference** Which speaks of mourning for the sexual immorality in their society and the cavalier attitudes towards its plague. The apostle James was inspired to record a similar message for us: **James 4:4-9** *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.*

These perversions have a prophetic announcement for the student of the word in **Colossians 3:5-6** *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of*

**God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,**

The absence of mourning in the presence of sin becomes sin. The Biblical response to sin is to mourn, be comforted and overcome with righteousness. But I want especially for you to note the prophetic announcement for our awareness in this world: Colossians 3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

Today, in this world and in our lives there is but one choice to make - choose for God and His righteousness and eternal reward. Or choose or default to satan and his rebellion and eternal consequence.

The writer of the Old Testament book of Joshua had it right 3,500 years ago

**Joshua 24:15** *And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

**Matthew 5:3-4**

3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

I pray you will not leave here today and mourn for never having made a public declaration of accepting Jesus as Lord. This is our invitation for you to come forward as we stand together and sing ~~and have the testimony of the word of God and Christians for the comfort that comes through mourning.~~

**Matthew 5:1-4**

**Matthew 6:33**

**Proverbs 9:6**

**Proverbs 23:19**

**Matthew 5:4**

**Proverbs 22:4-6**

**Reference is Romans 8:28**

**Philippians 3:3-11**

**Proverbs 3:3-8**

**Matthew 5:4**

**Matthew 9:14-15**

**1 Corinthians 5:1-5 reference**

**James 4:4-9**

**Colossians 3:5-6**

**Joshua 24:15**

**Matthew 5:3-4**