

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. - Matthew 5:4 NIV

Blessed [forgiven, refreshed by God's grace] are those who mourn [over their sins and repent] for they will be comforted [when the burden of sin is lifted].

Matthew 5:4 Amplified

Mourn: Gk.= pentheo, to grieve (the feeling or act) to mourn, wail - Strongs #3996

The Greek has 9 words for grief. This was the most intense grief and was reserved for mourning the dead. - Gen. 37:34, Mark 16:10. This mourning is a **passionate lament** and comes from a pierced heart. In Eastern culture, mourning is more lengthy, intense and visible. - Gen. 50:3-4, Exodus 12:30. While in London I saw this in a Pakistani Christian who mourned for weeks over the death of a relative. Throughout life we have many reasons for sorrow, mourning and tears. The Bible tells us that **'the wages of sin is death'** - Romans 6:23a

SIN David recognized that he had sinned against God - 2 Samuel 12:10-23. He paid 4 times for his sin with Bathsheba. 1) Bathsheba's baby dies 2) daughter Tamar is violated 3) son Amnon is slain 4) son Absalom is slaughtered. God comforts David with resurrection hope - Gen. 12:30; Psalm 32:3-7; 42:3-5; 51:1-3, 10-12; 69:9-10; 119:136

Ezra and Nehemiah - Ezra 10:6, Nehemiah 1:1-10 **Priests** are to mourn - Joel 2:17

Paul mourned a lot - Acts 20:31, Romans 9:2-5, 2 Corinthians 7:5-10

Lot - 2 Peter 2:6-8, Genesis 19:1-26.

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem for sin of unbelief - Luke 19:41-44.

God calls sinners to weep - James 4:8-10

Now therefore, says the Lord, turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. So rend your heart and not your garments; return to your God, for He is gracious and merciful... Joel 2:12-13 NKJV

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you doubleminded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. - James 4:8-9 NKJV

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret while worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10. Godly sorrow recognizes sin's effect on ourselves, others and most of all on missing God's glory and not bringing Him honor - Romans 3:23. Sorrow is present when we repent and will be present at times in our lifetime, yet we can have the joy of the Lord - James 1:2. There are trials in life - Luke 6:21, Isaiah 53:3. During sorrows we often meet God and realize the top priority of life is not things but God and people. Ironically, the closer we come to Christ, the more we are aware of our sinfulness in light of His absolute holiness. God's brilliant light exposes things in our life, which also happens as we read the Word of God. Notice how Paul describes himself in increasing humility in his Christian life: **Paul an apostle** - Galatians 1:1, I am the least of the apostles - 1 Cor. 15:9, I am less than the least of all the saints - Ephesians 3:8, Christ

came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the chief - 1 Timothy 1:15. Proud Saul went from extreme religious pride to great humility (the name **Paul means 'little'**).

The closer we get to Christ, the more we become like Christ in the fellowship of His suffering at the cross - Colossians 1:24. When we see the awfulness of sin, we are grateful our old sinful self was crucified there with Jesus at the cross

- Galatians 2:20, 6:14; Rom.6:6-7.

Imagine the culture shock of Jesus.....leaving pure, spotless, sinless, praise-filled, love saturated, God centered heaven. By comparison this earth must have seemed like a garbage dump. Jesus grieved over man's blindness and sin - Matthew 23:37-38, Psalm 22:1-21 (horror of the cross) but received comfort for the final harvest and reward to come from his death - Psalm 22:22-30, Hebrews 1:9, 5:7, 12:2.

BLESSING **'They shall be comforted'** (Gk. = parakalein) [to comfort, console and treat as an honored guest, to summon to one's side as a helper, witness, to invite to a banquet, to exhort, encourage (eg. troops cheering each other as they enter into battle) to stimulate and energize the mind]

Think of the royal welcome and comfort the prodigal son received from his waiting father. - Luke 15:11-24

2 Corinthians is a book about all the discouraging attacks against the apostle Paul. It begins with a strong

emphasis on the comfort of God, (chapter 1:3-10), in fact He is called 'the God of all comfort'. Hannah Whitall Smith has a great book by that same title. I gave a copy of it to a friend about 40 years ago and it really helped them as it did myself.

Prayer intercessors know what it is to travail in prayer over other people, cities and countries that need deliverance from sin/Satan so that they can experience the comfort, joy and blessings of knowing Christ Jesus.

I enjoy reading about revivals. Recently I watched message I first saw in England over 30 years ago. It was recollections of R. Edward Miller who saw 7 revivals in his lifetime, but the most notable being one in Argentina in the early 1950's. At one time the intercessors were crying for several weeks and the floor would be wet from the abundance of tears. There came a time when the crying stopped; it was then that the spiritual principality over Argentina was broken and God's revival came in a powerful way.

Those who know how to mourn and cry over the things that break God's heart have been changed into those who have **sensitive and compassionate hearts**. As we see our world in chaos, we should draw comfort to know that one day **Jesus will reign** over all the earth. There will be righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit!

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

jesusreigns.net