

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

a message by Pastor Scott Tavalocci

2 Peter 1: 12 & 13

Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,

Gateway - We have always been known as people of prayer who have sought the presence of God.

1. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." - Matthew 5:4 (NASB95)

Opening up this scripture, the Lord changed my thinking.

- i. Initial response was to start repenting for my short comings -
 - a. Sins of Omission
 - b. Sins of Commission
- ii. In the Old Testament, people put on sackcloth and ashes to mourn.
 - a. Sackcloth was made of goat's hair and was very uncomfortable to wear.
 - b. It was a sign of humiliation; mentioned 44 times in the Old Testament.
 - c. Maybe we can equate sackcloth to burlap today?
- iii. What do we need to mourn for?

Generally, most commentators think people should mourn for sins -

 - a. An intense sorrow for sin - their sin or their nation's sin.
 - b. Coming before God with heartfelt sorrow and conviction for the overturning of sin.
- iv. What are we mourning for?

The Lord stopped me and asked, "What are you mourning for?" Then, He said something that got my attention. He said, **"What you should be mourning for is my presence."**

 - a. Mourning for our sins alone does not lead to transformational change!
 - b. Blessed are those who mourn - not mourn because of Sin, but mourn for His presence.
- v. What does Blessed and Mourn mean?

Blessed - The Greek word for blessed means happy/maybe joyous - that joy which is completely independent of all the chances and the changes of life.

Mourn - The Greek word for mourn is the strongest form of the verb. It is meant for mourning the dead; the dead that is most emotionally close to you. The kind of grief that takes holds of a man and cannot be hidden.

Supporting scriptures for this revelation

- a. Is 61: 1-3

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me, To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted... **To grant those who***

mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

a. Jude 1:24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the **presence of His glory blameless with great joy,**

b. Psalm 16:11

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

c. James 4: 7 -10

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.**

ii. Example of Prayer – **2 Chronicles 7:14 - 15**

and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

"Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.

Example of Prayer meeting – Leading in Repentance

2. The Comforter And The Presence – What happens in the presence?

i. What are we comforted with? - Paraklete - from the "Parakletos" - The Helper or Comforter

Scriptures on the Comforter:

a. John 14:17 – *the Spirit of truth abides in you and will be in you...*

b. John 14:26 – *Helper/Comforter will teach (expound – reveal) you all things and bring to your remembrance...*

c. John 15:26 – *testify about Jesus...*

d. John 16:7-13

(1) Convict the world – Sin, Righteousness and Judgment (Right and Wrong), Justice and Injustice)

(2) Guide us into all Truth

(3) Speak on the Fathers Initiative

(4) Bring Glory to Jesus

ii. Truth is a revelation of the word of God that has become alive and is living in us. This leads to:

a. Personal Transformation

b. Corporate Growth

c. Kingdom Influence

d. Community Influence

e. Transformation into God's Will and Ways