

Discussion Guide (October 15, 2023)

Bryan Bicket

Message: *Blessed Are Those Who Mourn* (Series: *#Blessed: A Look At The Beatitudes*)

PRIMARY PASSAGES (NIV)

Matthew 5:3-4: *Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

Hebrews 11:24-25: *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.*

Romans 6:23a: *The wages of sin is death...*

John 3:19-20: *This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.*

Proverbs 6:16-19: *There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies, and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.*

Romans 3:23: *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Proverbs 27:6: *Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

Revelation 21:4: *..“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

1 John 1:9: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- When Jesus says, “Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted,” He is talking about those who recognize and mourn over sin.
- **Five Unhelpful Ways to Deal with Your Sin**
 - Deny it!
 - Minimize it!
 - Ignore it!
 - Hide it!
 - Be defined by it!
- **How God Wants You to Deal with Your Sin**
 - Mourn it!
 - Give it to God!

OVER>>>>>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define what “the good life” is and looks like? What about our society at large? What are some ways you or those around you strive to live their definition of “the good life”?
2. When Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted,” He was referring to those who mourn over their sin. Because sin is weighty, we all try to deal with our sin in different ways. Look at the message highlights and then identify and share some ways you have fallen into the five unhelpful ways of dealing with your sin.
3. Reread John 3:19-20. How does this verse help you to understand your or other people’s aversion to Jesus and love for their sin?
4. Reread Proverbs 6:16-19.
 - If you had created your own list of “seven things God hates” before reading this one, what do you think you would have said?
 - How does knowing God hates things like a prideful (haughty) spirit, lying and those that create conflict in community affect the way you respond to people caught in other sins that we typically see as “bigger” or “more serious”?
5. What specific sin might God be asking you to mourn today?
 - What do you need God to do in your heart to truly help you mourn this sin?
6. Jesus wants to comfort you as you mourn your sin by reminding you that Jesus already died for your sin while you were still sinning against Him. He died for you to forgive you of your sin and to reconcile you with God the Father. He wants to comfort you in your mourning by reminding you that one day there will be no more need for mourning when He ushers in the New Heaven and New Earth. Until then, we are called to mourn our sin and then give it to God. How does this “good news” bring you comfort personally today in light of the sins you are struggling with?
7. How can the members of this group pray for you this week as you seek to apply what the Holy Spirit has shown you during this conversation?

Heavenly Father, thank You for being a God who is holy, righteous, and just. Thank You that while we were still sinners, You sent Jesus to die for us so that we could be cleansed and forgiven of all our sin. God, help us to love You and Your Son Jesus so much that this love overpowers and pushes out our love for sin. Comfort us through the knowledge of the Gospel and help us to live in the forgiveness and freedom you bring! Amen.