

THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:4



OPENING

- Pray for God to comfort each member of your group during this study.

SERMON REVIEW

- The pursuit of happiness is said to be the universal pursuit, but do you think lasting happiness is even attainable?
- There's a spiritual component to happiness that is often overlooked. Gladness of heart, rejoicing - these were tied to our relationship with God in Scripture.
- Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5:4)
- Happy are the unhappy? What a startling paradox.
- Jesus wasn't broadly addressing sadness though; he was describe the mourning of those that confess him as Lord. This takes two forms:
- They've been humbled and ashamed by their own sin and frailty. But they're redeemed, restored, and renewed! "Blessed are the people...who don't try to hide these things under a cloak of self-sufficiency," says John Piper, "but who are honest about them and grieved and driven to the grace of God."
- The disciples also grieve the greater reality of sin in creation, with all the evil and destruction that it entails.
- Jesus came to comfort. He himself was a man acquainted with suffering and pain (Isaiah 53:3), and came to bind up the brokenhearted and comfort the mourning (Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:16-21).

DISCUSSION

- We talked about mourning our sins this past Sunday, which isn't necessarily a popular topic. Get a better understanding of its biblical precedence by reading and discussing the following: Ezra 9:3-4, Psalm 119:136, Isaiah 6:5, Ezekiel 9:4, Philippians 3:18.
- Take a look at 2 Corinthians 7:10. How would you define Godly sorrow? What role should it play in the life of the believer, and in the Church as a whole?
- What's the difference between becoming poor in spirit and mourning? And how are the two connected to one another?
- If it is sin and brokenness that his disciples mourn, what kind of comfort does Jesus offer? How is it that he "binds up the brokenhearted" (bearing in mind Isaiah 61:1-3 and Timothy Keller's definition of sin—a distortion and dislocation of the heart)?
- How does Revelation 7:15-17 shed light on the "yet to come" aspect of this particular beatitude? What does that promise mean to you?

CHALLENGE

- Allow yourself to experience Godly sorrow when appropriate. Don't go seeking opportunities to grieve, but respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit when it comes.
- Spend at least 15 minutes reflecting, even journaling, on the incredible grace of God (specific to your very own salvation). Thank him for forgiveness, and don't rush through it with sweeping statements.

PLAN AHEAD

- Coming next week: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."