



## Sermon Text: Matthew 5:4

Sermon Date: May 12, 2019

On Sunday we continued our study through the Beatitudes by focusing upon Matthew 5:4, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Pastor Justin emphasized five things about this verse.

### **RIGHT-SIDE UP LOGIC IN AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD**

At first glance, the beatitudes seem to be upside down. Yet after careful reflection, we discover that the wisdom they present is actually right-side up. When viewed through the lens of our spiritual poverty, each beatitude flows into the next with spiritual logic. Those who see themselves as spiritual poor, mourn their sins. And those who mourn, interact with others meekly. And the poor, mourning, and meek hunger for the righteousness they know is not within them.

### **THE NECESSITY OF PERSONAL MOURNING**

The context of verse four shows us that mourning our individual sinfulness is necessary. Confessing our spiritual poverty, we must feel contrition for our sins. D. A. Carson says, “It is not enough to acknowledge personal spiritual bankruptcy with a cold heart.” Mourning isn’t optional; it is part and parcel of being a Christian. You can’t be forgiven if you are not sorry for your sins.

### **THE APPROPRIATENESS OF EXPANSIVE MOURNING**

A Christian not only admits that she is broken, but that our world is broken. Christians are to be “the truest realists.” Therefore, we must mourn the world’s brokenness. Jesus wept and so did Paul. The great unyielding realities of Christianity loom large and cast an unavoidable shadow over earthly life—death, sin, judgment, eternity. If we believe what the Bible teaches, how can we not mourn? We must be on guard against a syrupy, unbiblical, ultimately unlivable strand of evangelicalism that assumes the Christian life must be all smiles. Within the first two beatitudes Jesus obliterates such a foolish notion. Christians mourn. Ferguson argues, “The child of the kingdom knows higher joys as well as deeper sorrows, more sensitive mourning but also more profound comfort, now that he is the Lord’s. His emotional sensitivity becomes greater—not less.”

### **THE PRESENT & THE PERFECT COMFORT**

The reason Jesus pronounces blessing upon those who mourn their sins is because God comforts them. They are forgiven. When studying the Beatitudes we discover two aspects of this comfort. The kingdom of heaven is both present and future—already here, yet not here in its fullness. The present comfort a Christian enjoys is spectacular—free forgiveness and new life in Christ—but perfect comfort is coming when Jesus returns in the future. Revelation 21:4 says, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

### **THERE IS SOMETHING SADDER THAN SADNESS**

Our world lives like mourning should be avoided at all costs. Forget troubles and refuse to face them. Be as happy as you can. Those are the mindsets of our world. Yet, there is something far sadder than sadness. It is the recalcitrant refusal to mourn our sinfulness and rebellion against God. For where sin is not mourned, forgiveness is not found. Thomas F. Roeser says, “...there is one thing worse than sin. That is denial of sin, which makes forgiveness impossible.”

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. Why should the realities of the Scriptures cause us to mourn our sin & the world’s brokenness? How can you daily live aware of these looming realities?
3. What is so appealing about perpetually happy Christianity? Why is it ultimately emotionally devastating?