

REAL TALK FROM THE WORD

The Beatitudes

"...Blessed are they who mourn..."

Matthew 5 verse 4 says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." When was the last time you mourned-not because of what someone did to you or because of something that happened to you - but because what you did was wrong, and it hurt God?

The word for mourn in the second beatitude means to mourn for or lament as a way of life. The way the word is used here means that we are never to be hardened to sin or sorrow, we are never to lose our ability to grieve, to weep, to mourn. We are never to become so calloused that we can look at sin or pain and remain unmoved-or even worse, laugh.

1. When was the last time you cried over the sins of others?

2. When was the last time you hurt because God hurt?

3. When was the last time you wept in your prayers for others, lamenting over the awful degradation of humanity? Or the persecution of our brothers and sisters in Christ?

Of all the "*blesseds*," Blessed are those who mourn" may be the most difficult one for us to understand. What does mourning have to do with being spiritually prosperous or approved of God? How do tears and sorrow of heart link up with the true and lasting happiness you desire? In God's economy it all makes perfect sense.

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There are 3 things to consider in this beatitude.....

- * First, we are to mourn over sin in our own lives.
- * Second, we are to mourn over sin in the church.
- * And third, we are to mourn over sin in the world.

For only those who mourn shall be comforted. The blessedness does not come in the mourning; it comes in the results of the mourning – knowing the comfort of His intimacy, the surety of His arms about you, hearing the beat of His heart as He draws you close to His all sufficient breast.