



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
THE SERMON ON THE
MOUNT 2

Blessedness (recap)



Not a command, but a

relational state of being

*resulting from what is stated in
the rest of the sentence. (Giles)*

What do you think about that?

Those who mourn

- *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- *Mourning about what? How can we mourn in relation to God?*
- Bereavement?
- Godly Sorrow – 2 Cor 7:8-11
- Bemoaning the sin of others – tell you again with tears (Phil 3:18)
- Binding up the broken-hearted

- Not left to mourn alone.

Mourning

- We might almost translate this second Beatitude ‘Happy are the unhappy’ in order to draw attention to the startling paradox it contains. What kind of sorrow can it be which brings the joy of Christ’s blessing to those who feel it?
- It is plain from the context that those here promised comfort are not primarily those who mourn the loss of a loved one, but those who mourn the loss of their innocence, their righteousness, their self-respect.
- It is not the sorrow of bereavement to which Christ refers, but the sorrow of repentance.
- Agree or disagree?

(Stott, The Message of the Sermon on the Mount, 24.)

Mourning

- Mournfulness can be understood as the **emotional** counterpart to poverty of spirit.
- At the individual level, this mourning is a **personal grief over personal sin**. This is the mourning experienced by a man who begins to recognize the blackness of his sin, the more he is exposed to the purity of God. Isaiah was one such, as he was accorded a vision of the Deity, in which even the very angels of heaven covered their faces and cried in solemn worship, “Holy! Holy! Holy!” Isaiah’s reaction was utter devastation (Isa. 6:5). It is the cry of a man who goes after purity in his own strength and finds he cannot achieve it, and cries, “**What a wretched man I am!** Who will rescue me from this body of death?” (Rom. 7:24).
- Sometimes the sin of this world, the lack of integrity, **the injustice**, the cruelty, the cheapness, the selfishness, all pile onto the consciousness of a sensitive man and make him weep. Most of us would prefer merely to condemn.
- What do you think?

(Carson, Jesus Sermon on the Mount and his confrontation with world, 22.)

Mourning in the Bible

- Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. (2 *Cor 8:7-11*)
- Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (*James 4:8-10*).

Mourning in the Bible

- Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? ²⁰ Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. (Jn 16:19-20)
- Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. (Rom 12:15)

What Jesus is promising

- *Jesus blesses those who mourn.
Without Jesus sadness and shame
abound. With Him there is comfort and
healing. (Giles)*

MOURNING

What's your sense of
what mourning is in
this context?



In your own words

**Blessed are those who mourn for
they will be comforted.**

How would you say it in your own words?

Mourning

- Could “mourning” be a **path-way** to the relational state of heart-readiness to be able to receive God’s comfort?
- It’s what we can do about our sin and the shame we can feel that leads us to the repentance that brings God’s blessing?



Reflection

- How do I feel about “mourning”?
- Can I see a difference between “guilt” and “mourning”?
- Why does Jesus talk about this?
- Do I understand what this mourning looks like? How can I find out?
- What can I start doing to be blessed in my response?