

The Beatitudes

Being the followers Jesus longs for



Session 2

"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

A Few Notes for Understanding the Beatitudes

Audience:

The primary audience is the disciples. There are crowds listening in, but Jesus is directing his teaching to his committed followers.

Purpose:

It doesn't come through clearly in English translations, but the phrase "and he began to teach them" in the original language means that this was an intentional and formal time of teaching. Jesus is holding a class and purposefully teaching His disciples the essentials of what it means to follow Him.

Format:

The beatitude form states a condition for receiving a blessing and the blessing to be received. In Matthew 5:4-10, Jesus is making a series of statements that declare what it means to be his disciple and the blessings that result.

Review: The disciple Jesus longs for...

1. is **"poor in spirit."** They **RECOGNIZE** their desperate need for God and totally trust Him.

The Blessing: You belong to God and know that He is in control.



BIBLE STUDY

1. When you hear the word mourn what do you think of, what images or experiences come to mind?
2. When you are mourning, would you consider yourself blessed?
3. Jesus' reference to those who mourn is rooted in the Old Testament. To find out what Jesus means by mourning, read the following passages:

Jeremiah 9:12-19, Ezekiel 7:16, Psalm 119:136

In these passages what reasons are given for mourning?

4. Given this Old Testament background, what is Jesus calling his followers to do? Why do you think this would be an important condition of being a disciple Jesus longs for?

Read Psalm 32:1-5

5. What is the blessing David refers to and why does David consider it a blessing? According to this Psalm, what did David have to do to receive this blessing? In what way is this a comfort?

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

6. What is God calling for and what is the blessing promised?
7. Considering what you have just studied and learned, why are those who mourn blessed? Although it seems like an oxymoron, why does mourning result in blessing?

APPLY

1. How do you feel about your sins? Place yourself on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being "I take them for granted" and 10 being "I deeply mourn for them."
2. How do you feel about the sins you see in the world? Again, place yourself on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being "What can I do about it?" and 10 being "I grieve for the suffering sin is causing and for the eternal death people are facing because of their sin."
3. What can you do to protect yourself from taking your sin and the sins of the world for granted?

PRAYER

Mourning over our sin leads to an eagerness to confess because we want to receive God's forgiveness and be free of the burden and guilt of the sin.

What do you need to confess?

Use this prayer time as an opportunity to receive God's blessing.

In silence, pray and ask God to reveal to you any sins that are interfering with your relationship with Him. When things come to mind, confess them using a prayer like this one.

"Lord, I confess _____. I renounce it as wrong and a sin against you and choose to repent and turn away from it and live for you. Thank you for your forgiveness. Amen."