



# CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM

THE BEATITUDES

PART THREE



# THE BEATITUDES

## "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN"

- Grant Del Begio

### **Citizens of the Kingdom** The Beatitudes

*"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."* - Matthew 5:4

- Grant Del Begio

#### **1. Why do we mourn in the first place?**

Jesus cares about our losses and we as a church are meant to be his hands and his feet in moving towards those who suffer and mourn.

**Romans 12:15b reminds us to "mourn with those who mourn."**

Sometimes we mourn because of the direct consequences of our sin as James explains in chapter 4:1-2:

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

- James 4:1-2

Our deepest mourning is associated with loss

of relationship. And something was lost back there in the garden, that trusting, intimate, yet worshipful relationship with our Creator, and we are trapped in the same cycle of overreaching, not putting God in His rightful place, we seek power, money, sex, or material goods to fill the void, but it's never enough. We look for lasting security and significance in things that can offer neither, so we mourn.

#### **2. How can we be blessed when we mourn?**

I think the answer to that lies in both what we are mourning about and to whom we direct our mourning.

"Poverty of spirit is essential to the succeeding characters, underlies each one of them, and is the soil in which they can be produced alone. No man ever mourns before God until he is poor in spirit."

- Charles Spurgeon

#### **3. How are we comforted when we mourn over our sin?**

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

- 2 Corinthians 7:10

We join in the prayer of dependence, like that of Psalm 139.

*“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

- Psalm 139: 23-24.

Jesus speaks of the “rest” we receive when we come to him:

*“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” - Matthew 11:29*

*“If the actions of Jesus are reflective of who he most deeply is, we cannot avoid the conclusion that it is the very fallenness which he came to undo that is the most irresistibly attractive to him... The cumulative testimony of the four Gospels is that when Jesus Christ sees the fallen of the world all about him, his deepest impulse, his most natural instinct, is to move towards that sin and suffering, not away from it.”*

- Dane Ortlund

This is how we can “come clean” about our sins and experience grace:

*“If we admit our sins—simply come clean about them—he won’t let us down; he’ll be true to himself. He’ll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.”*

-1 John 1:9 (The Message)



## Life Group and Reflection Questions

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

1. In his message, Grant noted how we often want to avoid ‘mourning’ – we’d rather be here “for a good time” and move away from the experience of mourning. How have you sense that ‘avoidance’ in your own life?
2. Mourning occurs when we lose something we love – it comes from the break in a relationship. The key relationship that we mourn is the break we have with God on account of our own sin. The “mourning” Jesus speaks of, then, is particularly evident when we recognize the reality of our own loss of relationship with God, and the pain that the world suffers on account of human sinfulness – both personal and corporate. Was that a new thought to you? How is that helpful for framing Jesus promise to those who ‘mourn’?
3. How is “mourning” logically connected to “poverty of spirit” as we looked at last week (see the quote by C.H. Spurgeon printed below)? Have you experienced that for yourself? What was it like?

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- Charles Spurgeon

4. We saw in the message that sometimes we do not direct our mourning to Jesus, but instead try and console ourselves – to mend our own

sense of brokenness by numbing the pain or avoiding it, or by chasing after ‘the next thing’ as a distraction. In what ways are you personally tempted to move away from directing your own mourning to Jesus? How are the words of Jesus a “blessing” to you today as a means of actually dealing with the brokenness you sense in yourself and in our world?

5. Read and discuss this quote from Dane Ortlund:

“If the actions of Jesus are reflective of who he most deeply is, we cannot avoid the conclusion that it is the very fallenness which he came to undo that is the most irresistibly attractive to him... The cumulative testimony of the four Gospels is that when Jesus Christ sees the fallen of the world all about him, his deepest impulse, his most natural instinct, is to move towards that sin and suffering, not away from it.”

- Dane Ortlund

How does this reality encourage you or lead you to worship?

**Prayer:** Take some time to respond to Jesus’ great comfort in prayer. Maybe this includes a time of confession that leads to a renewed and refreshing sense of his closeness and love.

Pray for those in your Life Group – if they have areas that they need to experience God’s comfort because of losses they are suffering. Pray that as a community, we would be faithful to being a community that reflects the comfort of God in how we respond to each other and our world, that we “mourn with those who mourn” (Rom 12:15).

