

THE BLESSEDNESS OF MOURNING
(Matthew 5:3)

- I. The MEANING of Mourning
 - A. There is mourning that is IMPROPER
 - 1. Grieving over inappropriate THINGS
 - 2. Grieving to inappropriate EXTREMES
 - B. There is mourning that is PROPER
 - 1. Grieving the LOSS of a LOVED ONE (Gen. 23:2; John 11:19)
 - 2. Grieving the SINS or STRUGGLES of OTHERS (Jer. 9:1; Mark 9:24; Acts 20:31)
 - 3. Grieving personal DISCOURAGEMENT (2 Tim. 1:3-4)
 - C. This is the mourning that is GODLY (2 Cor. 7:10-11)
 - 1. It is BROKENNESS over personal SIN (James 4:8b-9)
 - 2. It includes SORROW for having FAILED GOD (Ps. 51:4)
 - 3. It involves CONFESSION of one's SINS to GOD (James 4:8a, 10; 1 John 1:9)
 - 4. It is *not* being OVERWHELMED by DESPAIR (2 Cor. 2:7-8)
 - 5. It is *not* WALLOWING in SELF-PITY
 - 6. It focuses *not* on SELF and one's SIN, but on GOD

II. The RESULT of This Mourning

- A. “They SHALL be COMFORTED” by the TRIUNE GOD
- B. Promises PRESENT help (Matt. 11:28; 2 Cor. 1:3; 2 Thess. 2:16)
 - 1. Includes MITIGATION of GRIEF
 - 2. Includes ENCOURAGEMENT and ASSISTANCE
- C. Promises FUTURE LIBERATION (Rev. 21:4)

III. How to BE One who Mourns

- A. Eliminate HINDRANCES
 - 1. LOVE for your SIN
 - 2. MINIMIZING or DENYING the EVIL of your sin
 - 3. PUTTING OFF dealing with your sin
 - 4. Presumption that God OWES you FORGIVENESS
 - 5. DESPAIRING in unbelief that God can FORGIVE
- B. Study GOD’S WORD
- C. PRAY

IV. EVIDENCE That You are One Who Mourns

- A. Experience SENSITIVITY to your own SIN
- B. Experience a SENSE of God’s FORGIVENESS