**The Inside Out**, **Kingdom of God: The Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5-7**

***Upside Down***

**Matthew 5:4**

**Last Week:**

1. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**This Week:**

1. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall or will be comforted.

**"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall or will be comforted.**

* *Mourning* has a double meaning. **It means the *grief*,** the sadness, *of those who have lost someone or something they care about deeply*: the oppressed and the grieving mourn because they experience real loss and are sad. **But it also means *repentance***: *sinners mourn for their own sins and the sin of their community, and truly want to end their sinning and serve God.*
* The prophet Amos pronounces God’s judgment on those who do not mourn. They oppress the poor and crush the needy, and then say to their husbands, “Bring [wine], that we may drink!” They sin and then bring sacrifices to the temple, thinking their sacrifices cover their sins, when they continue to practice injustice. God pronounces woe on those who do not mourn: “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion…. Who to those who lie upon beds of ivory,…who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,….but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! … ‘Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who dwells in it? ….I will turn your feasts into mourning’” (Amos 4:1-5; 5:6, 14; 6:1-7; 8:7-10; 9:5).

**Luke 6:21:**

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”

* Here we have the parallel passage to Matthew 5’s beatitudes, in Luke 6. Luke’s version of this beatitude seems to be condemning the apparent laughter, joviality and happiness of the world by pronouncing a woe upon it; but it promises blessing and happiness, joy and peace to those who mourn. Just as being poor in spirit was really more of a spiritual thing than a financial thing.

**Biblical Character to Reflect Upon: Nehemiah**

**Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 (Example of mourning of the sins of your community)**

* Nehemiah here clearly has a true heart felt conviction and concern for the state of Israel. He mourns, repents, prays, fasts, intercedes (begging for mercy)…

**Big Idea:**

* When Jesus called for mourning, he meant the mourning of repentance that is sincere enough to cause us to change our way of living.

**Quote From D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones:**

* “**Conviction must of necessity precede conversion**, **a real sense of sin must come before there can be a true joy of salvation**. Now that is the whole essence of the gospel. So many people spend all their lives in trying to find this Christian joy. They say they would give the whole world if they could only find it, or could be like some other person who has it. Well, I suggest that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred this is the explanation. **They have failed to see that they must be convicted of sin before they can ever experience joy**. They do not like the doctrine of sin. They dislike it intensely and they object to its being preached. They want joy apart from the conviction of sin. But that is impossible; it can never be obtained. **Those who are going to be converted and who *wish to be truly happy and blessed* are those who *first of all mourn***. Conviction is an essential preliminary to true conversion.”

**Martyn Assumes the Following:**

* “**To ‘Mourn’ is something that follows of necessity from being ‘poor in spirit.’** It is quite inevitable. As I confront God and His holiness, and contemplate the life that I am meant to live, I see myself, my utter helplessness and hopelessness. I discover my quality of spirit and immediately that makes me mourn. I must mourn about the fact that I am like that. But obviously it does not stop there. A man who truly faces himself, and examines himself and his life, is a man who must of necessity mourn for his sins also, for the things he does.

**Paul: Look at Paul’s wrestling with Law and Flesh (An example of mourning personal sin)**

**Read Rom. 7:14-25**

* Paul here is mourning his sinfulness 🡪 vs. 17 “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh… 24 “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” All Christians should know this inner turmoil. This struggle with inward knowledge what is right, but the inward turmoil of struggling with flesh and sin.

**Getting Practical:**

**Read Psalm 139 (especially vs. 23 & 24)**

**Self-Reflection:**

* **We need to build a discipline of repentance, meditation, and self-examination.**
* I **recommend self-examination** often (as a part of your prayer life). It is a good thing for every person to pause at the end of the day and meditate upon your life for that day. **Run quickly over your day**, and ask ‘*what have I done, what have I said, what have I thought, how have I behaved* with respect of others?’ Now reflect on the temptations of the day, the times you failed and the times you succeeded?

**Reflection beyond Oneself**:

* **We need to allow ourselves to mourn on behalf of the sins of others. We need to be concerned for the state of our society, the state of the world, and the injustices of the world.**
* That is why our Lord Himself mourned, that is why he was ‘a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief (**Is. 53:3**);’ that is why He wept at the grave of Lazarus (**John 11:35**). He saw this horrible, ugly, foul thing called sin which had come into life and introduced death into life, and had upset life and made life unhappy. He wept because of that; He groaned in His spirit. And as He saw the city of Jerusalem rejecting Him and brining upon itself its own damnation, He wept because of it (**Luke19:41**). Jesus mourned of the condition of this world often, and so must his followers (since we have received the Holy Spirit and Christ’s nature).

**Don’t Forget the Beatitude Promises Comfort!!!**

* The man who mourns is really happy, says Christ; that is the paradox. In our utter sinfulness and mourning we look for, and realize our need for, a savior. We find him in Christ Jesus!!! No one can truly know Him as his personal Savior and Redeemer unless he has first of all known what it is to be convicted of our sin and thus appropriately mourn. If we truly mourn, we shall rejoice, we shall be made happy, we shall be comforted. **For it is when a man sees himself in this unutterable hopelessness that the Holy Spirit reveals unto him the Lord Jesus Christ as his perfect satisfaction.**

**Beatitude in a Nutshell:** *blessed are those who mourn what is wrong and unjust and sincerely repent, for God comforts those who suffer and those who truly repent.*