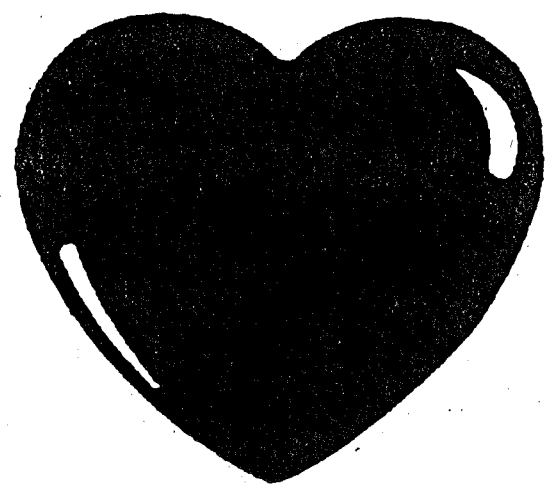


# SPIRITUAL MOURNERS

(How Godly Sorrow Allows God To Change Us Inwardly)  
Matthew 5:4



## “REWARDS OF REPENTANCE”

- ◆ Forgiveness Of Sin
- ◆ Freedom From Sin

“Blessed Are They That Mourn, For They Shall Be Comforted”  
(Matthew 5:4)

Bill Kirk

# “MATTERS OF THE HEART”

(Message #2)

**Text:** Matthew 5: 1-12

**Subject:** (Verse 4) “Blessed Are They That Mourn”

## Introduction

(Last week we began this series and discovered)

1. The Sermon On The Mount is the first of five major discourses in Matthew.
2. It is a message from Jesus to the heart (not a list of dos & don'ts).
3. It is a revelation of how we are meant to live,
4. How to enjoy life – even with its dents, detours, delays and disappointments.

## Things Like...

- ◆ Attitudes that will protect us from self-destruction.
- ◆ What it means to be salt and light.
- ◆ How to be reconciled to someone with aught against you.
- ◆ Why it is important to protect the eye gate to the heart.
- ◆ How to go the 2<sup>nd</sup> mile, love your enemies, pray, fast and give in secret, lay up treasures in heaven and not to worry.
- ◆ What it means to judge not that we be not judged.
- ◆ Why the strait and narrow gate is better than the broad way.
- ◆ How to know if Jesus is Lord of your life or not.
- ◆ And, how to build your life upon rock so that you will not be washed away in a storm.

## (Remember Now)

- ◆ The Beatitudes are 8 cause and effect blessings.
- ◆ 8 choices we make that determine the quality of our lives.

**Question:** What are the 8 choices we can make?

**Answer:** “Blessed are”

#1. The poor in spirit	#5. The merciful
#2. The mourner	#6. The pure in heart
#3. The meek	#7. The peacemaker
#4. The hungry	#8. The persecuted

**Question:** What does it mean to be “Blessed”?

**Answer:** The Greek word for “Blessed” is (MAKARIOS) which means:

- #1. Spiritual joy that exists inside regardless of conditions outside.
- #2. Satisfaction that carries a person through pain, loss, sorrow or grief. (and)
- #3. Substance of spirit that is inward and abiding.

**Question:** How many of you want to be “Blessed” like Jesus wants you to be “Blessed”?

## (Last Week Choice #1)

- ◆ “Blessed are the poor in spirit (why?), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”.

**Question:** What does it mean to be “Poor in spirit”?

(Pg. 1 of 6)

**Answer:** It means:...

- ...to be consciously aware of our spiritual poverty before God.
- ...to see our helplessness apart from God.
- ...to admit our spiritual deficiencies.
- ...to have the proper attitude towards ourselves.
- ...to possess an awareness of nothingness apart from God's grace.

**Question:** How do you become "Poor in spirit"?

- #1. Look at the **Scriptures**. (Isaiah 66:2)
- #2. Look at the **Saints**. (Judges 6:15)
- #3. Look at the **Savior**. (John 5:19 & 30)
- #4. Look at **Self**. (Romans 3:10) "There is none righteous, no not one".

**Question:** What is the reward of being "Poor in spirit"?

- #1. **Humility**, (that protects us from pride and self destruction).
- #2. **Submission**, (that allows us to trust God's sovereignty without getting angry and bitter over unfulfilled expectations).
- #3. **Contentment**, (that keeps us from restlessness, anxiety, envy and covetousness).
- #4. **Gratitude**, (That leaves us thankful for everything because we are aware of our own poverty of spirit).
- #5. **Communion**, (that leads us into fellowship with Jesus because we know how much we need the Lord).

**(Poor In Spirit Means:)**

- ◆...I have nothing to prove or promote.
- ◆...I see my need (great need of God).
- ◆...I know what I must now do in response to my poverty of spirit.

**Question:** How do we respond when we see Jesus and see ourselves in poverty of spirit?

**Answer:** We take the next step in becoming a "**Blessed**" man or woman.

**Question:** What is the next step?

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

**(Two Questions Today)**

- #1. What does it mean to mourn? (and) #2. What does it mean to be comforted?

**I. What Does It Mean To Mourn?**

"Blessed are (who?) they that mourn".

**Question:** What does it mean to mourn? (and)

**Question:** Why are you blessed if you mourn?

- ◆ The Greek word for "Mourn" is (PENTHOUNTES) which means:
  - #1. To be broken hearted over sin.
  - #2. To sorrow, weep and groan within.
  - #3. To grieve in response to seeing my poverty of spirit.

**Question:** What enables us to mourn?

**Answer:** We see Jesus on the cross and realize that our sins put Him there. **(Repeat)**

**Question:** What is mourning?

**Answer:** It is the response of our heart when we really see the presence of sin.

- ◆ In v.3, “Poor in Spirit” means: The Holy Spirit has revealed to us our wretchedness because all of us have sinned.
- ◆ In v. 4, “To Mourn” means: We respond to God from our heart because of what we’ve seen.

**Fact:** To be “Poor in Spirit” is to be aware of our spiritual poverty. (We see God’s Holiness and we see our sinfulness).

**Fact:** To “Mourn” is to respond with godly sorrow to what we’ve seen.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ The world says, “Ignore your troubles and turn your face away from your moral depravity”.  
“Don’t cry or mourn over personal sin”  
“Eat, drink and be merry, live and let live”.  
“Party on mate, don’t worry be happy”.

**(But Jesus Teaches Us)**

- ◆ The way to be happy is to first mourn.
- ◆ The way to true joy is conviction of sin.
- ◆ The way to a merry heart is not to dodge the issue, (but face this issue). **(In Other Words)**
- ◆ Don’t pretend that everything is Okay.
- ◆ Don’t skip over the presence of evil.
- ◆ Don’t ignore what we see inside.
- ◆ Don’t act as if victory is yours when it isn’t.

**(Jesus Is Saying Here:)**

“Happy are those who spiritually mourn because they see their need, cry out to God (in mourning) and then obtain pure joy as the result”.

**II. What Does It Mean To Be Comforted?**

“Blessed are they that mourn, (why?) for they shall be comforted”.

**Question:** What does it mean to be comforted?

**Question:** Why did Jesus say that the person who truly mourns, becomes a truly happy person?

**Question:** How does comfort follow spiritual mourning?

**(Jesus Is Saying Here:)**

- #1. That when we mourn (or sorrow over our sin) it will lead to confession.
- #2. True confession and repentance will then find forgiveness of sin and favor with God. (and),
- #3. The degree of our mourning will be the degree of our repentance, which will be the degree of our joy and comfort.

**“They Shall Be Comforted” Means:**

- ◆ We find comfort to the degree that we are sorry for our sin.
- ◆ We find comfort to the degree that we mourn over inconsistencies.
- ◆ We find comfort to the degree that we experience forgiveness.
- ◆ We find comfort to the degree that we allow God to change our heart.
- ◆ We find comfort to the degree that we please God in word, thought and deed.

**(To Mourn Doesn’t Mean We Are Mean)**

- ◆ We are sorry, serious and sober-minded (not morose, miserable and cold).
- ◆ We are not sad and grim and sulking (we just mourn over sin and find great comfort).

**Question:** How does a person find comfort?

**Answer:** By Jesus bringing forgiveness!

**Here's How Mourning Works**  
(All Read II Corinthians 7:8-11)

(V. 10) "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented (or regretted) of:  
But the sorrow of the world worketh death".

**Question: What Is Godly Sorrow?**

- ◆ In (v. 8) Paul tells how he didn't enjoy the confrontation.
- ◆ He had proclaimed the truth and the truth went to work.
- ◆ The result was, that, many believers (who had been carnal) were convicted and sorrowed over offending God.
- ◆ In (v. 9) Paul rejoices: Not that the church felt guilty and sorrowful (but that their sorrow led to genuine repentance.)
- ◆ In (v. 10) Paul speaks of 2 kinds of sorrow:

- #1. "Sorrow of the world" (that produces death).
- #2. "Godly Sorrow" (that produces life).

**(What's The Difference Pastor?)**

◆ **"The Sorrow Of The World" In (V. 10) Is:**

- #1. That sorrow a person feels when they get caught.
- #2. That sorrow a person feels when they are guilty.
- #3. That sorrow a person feels when they are disgraced.
- #4. That sorrow a person feels when they are ashamed.

**(Paul Said In (v. 10) This Sorrow "Worketh Death")  
In Other Words**

- ◆ It's only concern is sadness over being found out,(and the consequences to follow).

**(It Produces Death)**

- ◆ Because this sorrow results in remorse, regret, depression and defeat alone.
- ◆ It leads to resentment, rebellion and bitterness.
- ◆ It doesn't lead to anything or anyone higher than my own self-preoccupation.
- ◆ It leaves me unchanged, still bound by habits of sin, void of a clear conscience and absent of God's power to govern me.

**(On The Other Hand)**

◆ **What Is "Godly Sorrow" (in V. 10?)**

- #1. Godly sorrow is that sorrow in the heart because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- #2. It is sorrow that comes from agreeing with God about my sin.
- #3. It is sorrow because I know that my sin has offended God.
- #4. It is pain within because of some action or attitude that does not please the Lord.

### (This Sorrow Produces Life)

- ◆ The sorrow of the world is only sad because of the consequences of sin (but godly sorrow sees its sin against God and therefore wants to leave it). It mourns!
- ◆ The sorrow of the world is preoccupied with how I feel (Godly sorrow is preoccupied with how God feels). It mourns!
- ◆ The sorrow of the world leads me nowhere but to myself. (Godly sorrow leads me to the next step in victorious Christian living). It mourns!

#### **Question: What Is Repentance Towards God?**

(V. 10) "Godly sorrow worketh (or produces) what?"

(V. 10) "Repentance"

#### **Question: What is repentance?**

#1. Repentance is the gift of God that produces lasting change.

#2. Repentance defined is: "Sorrow for sin with a sincere desire to forsake it".

#3. Repentance is God's grace that leads me to conviction (or godly sorrow), repentance (or change of mind) and salvation from sin (deliverance that is lasting).

**Fact: Remorse** is a human feeling that never graduates beyond guilt, regret, and the consequences of behavior.

**Fact: Repentance** sets the prisoner free because it cries out to God for mercy (and discovers the grace of God in power for holy living).

- ◆ Repentance is responding to Godly sorrow with spiritual mourning!
- ◆ Repentance is a work of God down deep when we cooperate with mourning!
- ◆ Repentance is the fruit of godly sorrow which says "God, I'm sorry, and I've had it with sin".
- ◆ Repentance results in a change of heart revealed by a change in conduct.
- ◆ Repentance is my part in the process that sees God work a powerful cleansing and freedom within.

#### **What Is Repentance?**

#1. Always a change for the better! (Something that is durable)

#2. Always a change that leads us higher and further on!

#3. Always a change that: #1. Seeks God's pardon (and) #2. Experiences God's power.

#### **Question: What is the Fruit Of Godly Sorrow That Leads To Repentance?**

##### **(In Other Words)**

#1. If I am sorry for my sin against God (and) #2. If I repent (or change my mind and forsake it)

##### **(What's The Result?)**

(V. 10) "For godly sorrow worketh repentance (and leads to what?) Salvation not to be repented (or regretted of)".

##### **(What Is The Fruit Of Repentance?)**

(V. 11) "For behold the self same thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves".

##### **(2 Words Of Victory)**

- ◆ The word “**Carefulness**” means: haste, speed, diligence & eagerness.
- ◆ It means the Corinthians went to work immediately:

- #1. To remove themselves from every sin.
- #2. To separate from everything that defiled.
- #3. To get radical about very un-addressed compromise.
- #4. To be angry over sin that had been allowed to exist.
- #5. To tackle with great desire what was grieving the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ The word “**Clearing**” means: “Apology for what had been done”.
- ◆ It means the Corinthians “**Cleared themselves**” (or) accepted responsibility for their part so that God could do His part.

**(Verse 10) “Not To Be Regretted” Means:)**

- #1. You will never regret the Holy Spirit’s conviction!
- #2. You will never regret godly sorrow!
- #3. You will never regret getting it out in the open!

**(Why Not?)**

- ◆ Because to the extent I agree with God and come clean (to that same extent I will experience the power of God to change).

**(In Other Words)**

- #1. Godly sorrow will lead us to great effort to cooperate with God and purify our hearts!!!
- #2. Godly sorrow will lead us to “Perfect holiness” (v. 1) or say “Yes” to what God has already begun in us!!!
- #3. Godly sorrow sees every sin against God, instead of focusing on how I feel with the consequences.
- #4. Godly sorrow causes me to feel sorry that I haven’t felt sorry enough to repent of what I need God to change. (And to the degree I mourn – to that degree I am comforted)

**AMEN!**

Bill Kirk, Pastor