



Sermon Discussion Guide

August 30, 2026

Refresh

Read Matthew 5:4 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn." Why does that sound so contrary to how our culture typically thinks about happiness and the blessed life?

Pastor Joe distinguished poverty of spirit from mourning: poverty of spirit recognizes our spiritual bankruptcy, while mourning acknowledges the grief and damage caused by our sin. Why are both necessary?

What is the difference between "worldly mourning" over sin and "godly mourning"? What are some signs that our sorrow is primarily about consequences rather than about grieving God? How can we cultivate "godly mourning" in our lives?

Joel 2 says, "Rend your hearts and not your garments." What is the prophet trying to communicate? What does outward repentance without genuine heart repentance look like in a Christian's life?

According to James 4:7-10, we do not clean ourselves up before coming to God. Instead, we draw near to Him and see our sin more clearly in His presence. How does that change the way we should respond after we have sinned?

We were told that we do not mourn in order to earn God's comfort. Christ secured that comfort by bearing our sins and sorrows on the cross. How does the gospel keep mourning over sin from turning into despair or self-condemnation?