

# Tuesday Devotional

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” – Matthew 5:4

Who wants to spend time mourning? Who wants to focus on being sad? Our culture tells us constantly to try to get away sadness and only think good thoughts. This is somewhat of what the purpose of entertainment is for. We watch TV, we listen to music, we go to events often with the purpose of getting away from the sadness of life and to think about the joys of life. I am not saying these are bad things to do. However, Jesus tells us happy are those who mourn.

Last week we looked at the first beatitude, which is *“blessed (happy) are the poor in spirit.”* Simply put, this means to admit our need for God because of sin. The second beatitude takes us a step further and says we shall not only admit we need God, but we are to admit our sin before God and to mourn over our sin. What does mourn over something mean? To mourn means to lament, be sad over, or to have sorrow for something. As Martyn Lloyd Jones writes, *“This is a spiritual mourning.”*

What does this mean to have spiritual mourning? It means to have a true conviction of sin and to see sin for what it really is in the eyes of God. Sin is cosmic treason against a holy, righteous and perfect God. Sin effects all of us (Romans 3:23). Sin is what separates us from God and the result of sin is death and the wrath of God (Romans 6:23). Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). We need to take seriously if we are going to take salvation by God seriously. Martyn Lloyd Jones again wisely states, *“A real sense of sin must come before there can be a true joy of salvation.”*

Those who call the Lord their savior must first mourn their sin. Paul emphasizes this point in Romans 7:24 where he states, “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” To mourn our sin is to take it seriously to see the effects it has on us, on how we love God, and how we love our neighbor. To mourn sin does not mean to be miserable or to be solemn. Why not? Because those who do mourn their sin do have that blessedness, that joy in salvation, that comfort that comes from Christ. As Paul would right in the very next verse Romans 7:25, *“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”* We do have a joy in salvation, but first must come a spiritual mourning. Do you mourn your sin?

For further study: Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:7-10