

Mount Pisgah AME Church

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Bible Study, Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Developing Christian Character *Kingdom “Attitudes”:* *A Study in The Beatitudes* *Matthew 5:1-12* *Blessed Are Those Who Mourn*

Review

- The *Fruit of The Spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23) indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person’s character and hence are evidence that a person is a believer in Christ
- In his “Sermon on The Mount” Jesus introduces the characteristics and culture of “The Kingdom” that God is ushering in through Jesus. The culture of The Kingdom of God is fundamentally different from the culture of the existing world.
- What God esteems has very little to do with what human’s tend to esteem. “Blessedness” (i.e., what God counts as successful) has little to do with material possessions, political influence, or even popularity. “Blessedness” is achieved by walking in harmony with what GOD values.
- God values character. Jesus shares in *The Beatitudes* some of the character traits that God values.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God

- The poor in spirit are those who have humbled themselves, or been humbled by the circumstances of life, enough to realize that they have *nothing to offer God* that they weren’t GIVEN. Everything that they have comes from God, and still belongs to God. Their salvation, acceptance, and value comes *completely* from dependence on Christ who loved them.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Mourn (Gk: *pentheo*): To grieve, bewail, lament

Eng: To express or feel grief or sorrow.

We think of mourning when we express a sense of loss. Losses and grief are experienced when a loved one transitions, but also at any time of loss. What other types of loss do we mourn?

We ALL mourn these types of losses. God promises that The Holy Spirit, known as “The comforter,” will comfort us in times of trouble and affliction.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 - God promises to comfort us in affliction
- Psalm 30:5 – Joy will come in the morning
- Isaiah 61:1-3

How then, is being “one of those who mourn” specific to growing disciples of Christ?

In the Old Testament, God’s people did not just grieve their circumstances, but they grieved the fact that often their situations were caused by their idolatry and disobedience. When they finally came to this realization, they spent time in collective grieving over how their *relationship with God* had been damaged.

- Isaiah 59:2 – Sin separates us from God
- Joel 2:12-17 – The only way back to God is through *mourning* sin and repentance

We still sin, and that sin still separates us from God. Some are “not sorry” – they don’t realize that their disobedience to God affects their relationship with God.

- The true disciple of Christ grieves because of his/her own sin and failures
 - James 4:7-10
- The true disciples of Christ grieve because of the sinfulness of the world around them, including the sinfulness of other disciples.
 - Luke 19:41-44 Jesus grieves over Jerusalem
 - James 5:1-6 Grieve over injustice
- The true disciple of Christ grieves because the Lord is robbed of God's rightful honor and glory

God expects us to be sorry for sin. However we can "be comforted" because there is a way back from sin.

- Salvation from original sin is a GIFT – Ephesians 2:1-10
- Deliverance from ongoing sin can be dealt with through confession and repentance
 - 1 John 1:5-9
 - Romans 12:1-2

The true disciple of Christ has the promise of comfort because of the victory of Christ on the cross. The things for which the disciple mourns are neither final nor fatal.

God is working out God's purpose in us and nothing can permanently separate us from the love of Christ
Romans 8:31-39

Comfort comes from atoned sin. Isaiah 40:1-2

***God's comfort comes through redemption and the promises that attend our salvation.
The Peace of God keeps us!***