**Blessed Are They That Mourn**

**By**

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**Matthew 5:4—Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.**

**Jesus was very good at catching people’s attention using paradoxes when he spoke.**

**Examples: He that saves his life shall lose it: He that would be great must be your servant. Now he tells of the happiness of the unhappy.**

**What kind of sufferers does Jesus have in mind?**

**Is he talking about those who suffer because of their misdeeds? No!**

**Christ is talking about those that mourn in their service of Christ. It was possible that Christ was talking about those who mourn as a result of persecution for following Christ.**

**It is probable that Christ was not talking about these as he addresses these situations later on in Chapter 5.**

**It is more than likely that he was talking about those who mourn out of a penitent heart for their own sins of unworthiness before God.**

**Jesus was recorded to have wept twice in the NT: Once for his friends, John 11:35; and once for his enemies, Luke 19:41**

**Jesus was truly concerned with the plight of others, both Christians and those who were not Christians. (Romans 12:15)**

**When a man can no longer feel pain or mourn, nor feel pleasure, then he cannot feel comfort from his mourning spiritually.**

**Are we as Christians to rejoice? (Philippians 4:4)**

**As Christians are we to be happy? Yes**

**Christ was a happy person as he attended a wedding feast and attracted followers.**

**As Christians are we to wear a long sad face all the time? No! If we did then others would not want to become a Christian if they thought it meant that they would serve a life of mourning.**

**Mourning is not an end to itself.**

**Mourning for one’s sins turns to joy at forgiveness. Mourning over one’s failures and own inadequacies is relieved in the strength that Christ supplies. Philippians (4:13)**

**Have we done a great job causing men to mourn without showing them the joy that is in Christ?**

**Have we pricked their consciences with guilt without showing them the comfort in forgiveness?**

**Jesus never intended mourning to be an end in itself. It is a means to an end—a much greater comfort.**

**Adversity has different effects on people:**

**Some it embitters**

**Others endure it thinking they are paying for their sins**

**However:**

**It is not what happens to you but what you do with what happens to you.**

**Often the greatest spiritual growth comes under the most stressful situations and circumstances.**

**The chastisement of God may be painful, but it yields the fruit of patience. (Hebrews 12: 5-11)**

**Is there great comfort for those who mourn in Christ? Yes**

**The comfort comes with his presence over his children, the hope of eternal life where there will be no more sorrow or pain. (Revelation 21:4)**