



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **When Tears Turn to Flowers (Matthew 5:4)**

Date: **April 29, 2018**

Last week, we began studying the most famous sermon in all of Scripture: The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus has taken his disciples up a mountain to preach this important sermon to them—a sermon that essentially serves as the constitution for God’s new kingdom. He begins this sermon by offering a description of what a born-again life looks like. This first section of the Sermon on the Mount is known as the Beatitudes. We will be slowing down over the next few weeks to look at each one of these Beatitudes individually. Last week, as we studied the first beatitude, we learned that as Christians we must have a poverty of spirit. We must come to the realization that we deserve nothing and that we are morally bankrupt apart from Christ. This week, we will study the second beatitude: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted,” (Matthew 5:4). We will learn what it means to mourn and what we ought to mourn over. And we will learn about the comfort that comes from God in response to our mourning.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 5:4 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. What does it mean to be “blessed”? How should we define this word?
 - b. What does it mean to “mourn”?
 - c. Last week we learned the importance of having a poverty of spirit. Why might those who are poor in spirit feel a need to mourn? How is mourning (v. 4) connected to a poverty of spirit (v. 3)?
 - d. What are some examples of things that should cause us to mourn?
 - e. What sins of society provoke feelings of sorrow and grief in you? Why?
 - f. Why is it important to mourn over our own sins too? Where else is this mandated in Scripture? What do we learn from these passages?



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- g. Why do you think our society, in general, tries to avoid mourning and move on as soon as possible? Can you think of any examples of this?
- h. Read Psalm 126:5-6. How do these verses encourage you? How might these passages strengthen your faith in the midst of mourning?
- i. What are some ways in which Jesus comforts us in *this* life?
- j. Read Revelation 21:4. What does this tell us about the comfort we will receive in eternal life?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Does mourning come natural to you? Why or why not? If we find it difficult to mourn, what can we do to better embrace mourning as an act of faith?
3. What are some sins in our society that cause you to be sorrowful to the point of mourning? Why?/
4. Why is it important to take the time to appropriately mourn over illnesses and deaths in our lives? Over the sins of society? Over our own sins?
5. How is mourning over sin different than just feeling bad about it? See 2 Corinthians 7:10-11.
6. How has the Lord comforted you when you have mourned over various situations in your life?