

DOING FOR THE LEAST MINISTRIES

P. O. Box 260752

Corpus Christi, TX 78426-0752

Phone: (361) 331-0824

Website: www.doingfortheleast.com

E-mail: doingfortheleast@yahoo.com

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**BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT MOURN
(Matthew 4:23-25)**

First off let's remind ourselves of who these people are. Jesus sees the people with various diseases, those in severe pain, demon possessed, having seizures and paralyzed. Then he goes up on the mountain. Too, the chapter breaks were put in centuries later so this is all one scene. Jesus takes his seat as a teacher and begins to speak words that one would neglect to his own demise -- top importance. He first says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." This being the primary beatitude and everything else comes out of this one.

Coming out of or after poverty of spirit, He says "Blessed are those that mourn." If we see the full picture here, we see those people following are mourning their own calamity, or for our sake -- a pandemic. Gross disability, casualty, and trauma and severe sickness sets these people up for learning a blessing that comes from mourning.

With this Beatitude Jesus is presenting a blessedness that cannot come any other way than mourning. The word "mourn" is in strong Greek to refer to grieving for the dead. It is a passionate lament for the loss of a loved one or loss of something of great value. There are two ways sorrow or mourning can overcome us.

(2 Corinthians 7:10) - Godly sorrow that brings repentance or worldly sorrow that leads to death. We can allow death, trauma, and dysfunction to make us or ruin us. A key term that describes this Beatitude is "go deep". We want to remain on the surface in our problems, but here Jesus is saying there is blessedness in mourning when we allow our circumstances to take us deeper in faith and trust in God.

(2 Corinthian 1:8-9) – Paul, in a very dark experience in his mission, he and his partner had despaired even of life - they assumed death. But that experience turned to cause them to rely on God who raises the dead! He allowed that mournful experience to take them deeper in faith. Maybe that is the problem with some of us modern American Christians; we haven't suffered hard enough to go deep in faith and trust! Again, Paul is an example in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. Paul had grief or sorrow concerning his thorn in the flesh, but it turned to be his strength. He went deeper in faith and allowed God to be his power in weakness.

At this point I want to use my own experience with mourning. When my Mom died, I grieved more than I ever had before. She was really my only helper in the ministry at the time doing lessons and typing. She even a few times went into the nursing home with me until she got worse. When that day came that she passed, my grief hit double as she was first, my super mom, and, also my ministry helper. The thought of quitting came to mind, but quickly I realized she would have said for me to keep at it - never quit. And that grief took the path in our definition and lead me to a change in thinking. So, I keep going and haven't quit, even terming it – "There ain't no quitting!"

Thus, when mourning hits and takes us down, always look to the greater calling and turn it around. It all comes to trusting God in the conflict or trouble. And it is in this trust that we are comforted as the beatitude points to.

Thanks for your attention and I hope this can spur you on to endurance in this present distress.

Ronnie Talbert
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