

The Beatitudes  
Matthew 5:1-16

“The Character and Witness of the Citizens of the Kingdom”

I. **Motivation for Life – Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted (5.4)**

A. Mournfulness can be understood as the emotional counterpart to poverty of spirit.

1. The world likes to laugh and have a good time
2. The world views mourners as wet blankets
3. At the personal level, mourning that Jesus is referring to is one's personal grief over sin
4. Isaiah 6:1-5 – saw himself in reality when contrasted with the holiness of God
5. Romans 7:24 – the cry of a person who seeks purity in one's own strength and finds he cannot achieve it and cries out.....

B. There is a broader sense of personal mourning

1. Stimulated by the sin of the world's system
2. Seeing the lack of integrity, injustice, cruelty, cheapness, selfishness, greed, etc may cause one to weep
3. Most of the world would prefer to condemn
4. Matthew 23 – wept over the city

C. As believers, we are the true realists because we see ourselves in reality (poverty of spirit).

1. We know death comes, sin exists, eternity is near, and we see ourselves as spiritually bankrupt.
2. The person who lives in the light of reality and rightly assesses oneself and the world, in which one lives, cannot help but mourn.
3. We mourn for the sins and blasphemies of his nation.
4. We mourn for the erosion of the very concept of truth.
5. We mourn that there are so few mourners.

D. The one who mourns will be comforted.

1. Individually, the mourner grieves over one's own sin because we know how great an offense it is to God.
2. But we learn to trust Jesus as the one who has paid sin's ransom – Mark 10:45
3. We rejoice with joy that that Jesus came to save us from our sin – Matt.1: 21
4. We know that one day all mourning and tears will be wiped away – Rev. 21:4

E. Progression of Scriptures

1. John 17:3 – eternal life
2. John 14:1- 11 – can't know God by methods of men
3. John 5:19,20,30 – know by revelation and subjection
4. John 8:28,29 – aggressive response in obedience.
5. John 14:21-31 – subjection and revelation and knowing Him
6. John 16:13-15 – Spirit reveals knowledge of Jesus to us
7. John 14:18 – results of knowing Him
8. John 15:1-11 – abide and not perform; love response in obedience
9. Luke 22:54-62 – broken heartedness because of sin
10. 2 Cor.7: 9,10 – Godly sorrow; repentance without regret
11. Luke 7: 36-50 – touched by Jesus love; amount of sin aware of

F. Summary:

A knowing relationship is developed between Christ and us as we subject ourselves to Him and He reveals Himself to us. This relationship is developed by the Holy Spirit and the Word and parallels Christ's relationship with His Father. Christ in us then fulfills everything the Father desire of us, and our love relationship with Christ becomes the prime motivator in our lives; not only freeing us from the limitations of what we could make of ourselves, but freeing us to see others from God's perspective, and to know people as Christ knows them.