

BEATITUDES #2

One of the statements that Jesus uses to introduce what we call the Sermon on the Mount is found in Matthew 5:4 and says “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Since the word blessed here carries the idea of happiness, and mourning is what we do when we are sad, this is like saying happy are those who are sad. So what exactly was Christ telling his audience?

To begin with we must understand that the mourning He refers to here is not just any mourning. It is that which comes about because of our sin. And it must be a sorrow unlike that experienced by those of the world. Today our prisons are full of people mourning over their crimes, not that they committed them, but that they got caught and now must suffer the consequences. The mourning that Christ speaks of is vastly different. What He is referring to is a heartfelt sorrow because we realize we have sinned against God. We are devastated because we have brought grief to our heavenly Father and want His forgiveness and to mend our relationship with Him. When we have this attitude toward our past mistakes and are determined to live faithfully in the future, we’ll be able to enjoy the comfort that our loving, merciful and forgiving God will provide.