

REDEFINING HAPPINESS

Part 4 - Those who Mourn are Happy - January 31, 2010

Matt. 5:1-12 ... When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. v.2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: v.3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. v.4 "**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.** v.5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. v.6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. v.7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. v.8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. v.9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. v.10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. v.11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. v.12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Cor. 5:1-2 ... It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! v.2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather **mourned**, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

2 Cor. 7:8-11 ... Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. v.10 For **godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation**, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. v.11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

I. Godly sorrow produces **repentance**.

Is. 61:1-3 ... The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, because the LORD has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to announce that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. v.2 He has sent me to tell those who **mourn** that the time of the LORD's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies. v.3 To all who mourn in Israel, he will give beauty for ashes, **the oil of joy for mourning**, praise instead of despair. For the LORD has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory.

Ezek. 9:3-6 ... Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side; v.4 and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men **who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.**" v.5 To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. v.6 Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

Is. 1:18 ... "Come now, let us **reason** together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

II. Repentance produces **joy**.

Ps. 32:1-5 ... Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. V.2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. V.3 **When I kept silent**, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. V.4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. V.5 **I acknowledged my sin** to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Ps. 51:1-4, 12 ... Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. v.2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. v.3 For **I acknowledge my transgressions**, And my sin is always before me. v.4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. v.12 **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation**, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Is. 40:1-2 ... "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. v.2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; **For she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.**"

Zeck 12:10-12 ... "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem **the Spirit of grace and supplication**; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, **they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son**, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. v.11 In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. v.12 And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;