

Meet My Savior: Jesus (Slide 1)

*Comforting Teacher - The Beatitudes:
Blessed are Those Who Mourn*

Reading : 1 Chronicles 28:9-10, 1 Kings 15:4-5, Acts 13:22

David was a man after God's own heart. He committed terrible sins when it came to his desire for Bathsheba. Yet, his failure before God was an exception and not the rule in his life. He repented and was remorseful but truly faithful the greatest portion of his life.

Our relationship with God hinges on our understanding of where we are spiritually with Him.

David told Solomon to have an intimate spiritual relationship with God.

(Slide 2) ***Know the God of your father***

Serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind

Yet, Solomon too, despite having been given Godly wisdom, failed.

In Luke 11, after Jesus had driven out a demon that had caused a man to be “mute,” a variety of reactions came about when they heard the healed man speak. Some said that Jesus had driven the demon out by the power of Beelzabub. Others wanted to see more signs.

Jesus knew their thoughts and He gave them something to consider that was contrary to what they wanted to incite. Would it make any sense to cast out a demon that was doing the bidding of its master?

Luke 11:17b-18 (Slide 3)

“Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. 18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul.”

No! That would be contrary to the cause!

If we claim an allegiance with God, yet, our life simply doesn't reflect our words we in essence are divided within.

1 John 2:6 (Slide 4)

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Our standing with God is reflected by our devotion to Him!

In whom or in what do you place trust?

Luke 11:21-26 (Slide 5)

21 “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. 22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

(Slide 6) ***23 “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.***

24 “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ (Slide 7) 25 When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. 26 Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.”

His question is; *“Where do you stand? Are you with me or against me?”* We cannot be idle because we face the potential of being consumed by this life

rather than trusting in pure religion. We cannot trust in what this life offers because eventually these things fail.

Those that realized their lost condition and were desperately seeking hope for their condition, in other words, those *“poor in spirit”* accepted Jesus and searched for the kingdom of heaven by living for Him.

Those that are unaware that they are *“poor in spirit”* trust in something else and are not searching for heaven. Nevertheless, Jesus is asking those who know to search for Him, *“are you for me or against me?”*

2 Corinthians 4:1-4 (Slide 8)

1 Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s (Slide 9) conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

If we recognize that we are poor in spirit/ spiritually in poverty then we must fill ourselves with the Love and Knowledge of Christ Jesus.

Many come along and hear and receive the word and recognize; *“I’ve been wrong. I’ve lived selfishly. Living only for what I desire. I’ve made regrettable mistakes along the way”* and thus Jesus taught;

“Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4

We know the word ***mourn*** from the standpoint of a feeling of great loss from the death of a loved one. Tremendous sadness and grief. Someone so dear and so close that is simply no more.

Sometimes death is sudden/ unexpected and sometimes it comes after much suffering and lingering agony. Even when the death of a loved one isn't unexpected it is still hard to bear.

The result is grief and some when we encounter death we often have an intense emotional reaction that can become inconsolable.

When Jacob believed that Joseph had been ripped to shreds and killed by and consumed by a ferocious animal, he became inconsolable and he mourned uncontrollably.

Genesis 37:34-35 (Slide 10)

34 Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. 35 All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave." So his father wept for him.

Samuel mourned intensely for Saul when God rejected him as King. He had mentored Saul and he loved him like a son.

Not only did Samuel mourn Saul for his impending fate but also because of his sin against God. It was an emotional and consuming display of grief and God spoke to Samuel:

1 Samuel 16:1ab (Slide 11)

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way"

We all understand *mourning* from the perspective of tremendous loss and that experience of grief helps us to understand the Greek word for *mourn* in **Matthew 5:4** from the standpoint of our sin and I believe that is what applies here.

In the context of **Matthew 5:4**, the Greek word for *mourn* means: *profound sorrow over personal sin, intense personal regret and the complete understanding of our personal spiritual need.*

When David realized the depth and ugliness of his sin he felt a great sense of mourning for the harm he had caused others and the hurt he caused God to experience. It cut deep and he abhorred his actions.

Psalm 51:3-4 (Slide 12)

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions,

And my sin is always before me.

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.

My sin is always before me.....David could not escape his sin. It was ever before him in consequence but perhaps even more so in regret and I believe he mourned his mistakes for the rest of his life. But sin had been removed because of his repentant heart and thus the message and blessing of **Matthew 5:4**.

When our attitude and recognition of our sin causes us to ***mourn*** we can have the rich blessing of comfort because we humbly see our failure and need for the blood of Christ.

Recognizing our own sin should cause us to lament, even to the point of shedding tears as we would wail for the loss of a loved one, and then to be led to repentance.

The understanding of mourning because of sin is emphatically displayed in Apostle Paul's writing to church at Corinth:

2 Corinthians 12:20-21 (Slide 13)

20 For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults; (Slide 14) **21 lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn {display intense sorrow} for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.**

Those that truly mourn and are blessed are those who have come to recognize that they are marred by sin and have tearfully repented.

Our sin can take us to a dark place and as we learned last week our sin separates us from God. When one comes to recognize how black and dark sin truly is, their attitude changes towards their personal sin:

Apostle Paul states in:

Romans 12:9 (Slide 15)

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

When we abhor evil and all sin is evil, including our own, our feeling/ attitude toward it from the Greek definition means that we *utterly detest, hate intensely (desiring to put it to death), shrink back from it*. In other words, rid it from our lives at all cost.

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.....*I don't think He means literally, if He did we would have a lot of blind people around. But, He is emphasizing the seriousness of the matter and the extreme conscious resistance we must have against sin.*

Until we come to that righteous conclusion and display of extreme sorrow, we will not have the comfort Jesus expresses in the Beatitudes.

Invitation

Sin is like carrying a heavy weight on your back day in and day out. Can you imagine carrying a box on your shoulders of 100 hundred pounds or more 24 hours a day?

I don't care how strong you are, after a short period of time that weight will start to tear you down. Your body will begin to turn on you. You will have difficulty walking/ just moving in general. You won't be able to stand upright and eventually the only alternative you will have is to fall face down to the ground and you recognize and admit, even the strongest man, that you need help.

That's exactly what sin does to us spiritually and until one truly mourns and falls face down the burden will never be lifted.

Then someone comes along as you lay prostrate on the ground and lifts that weight off your back and once again you can stand strong.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (Slide 16)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, (Slide 17) with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

Ask yourself, am I in trouble? Do I still carry the weight of my sin? It simply does not have to be that way. Your sin can be lifted off your shoulders by the blood of Christ if you are truly in mourning. Then you are comforted by Him!

Matthew 11:28 (Slide 18)

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Have you once put your trust in God but feel you have let that trust become idle? Your spiritual house was swept clean but empty. We can pray for you and help spiritually furnish your house and your comfort/ joy will return.

Please let us know this day how we can serve you in your walk with Jesus.....

Reading

1 Chronicles 28:9-10

9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 10 Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it."

1 Kings 15:4-5

4 Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem; 5 because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

Acts 13:22

And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

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