



#2 "Those Who Mourn"

- The Beatitudes Are A PROPHETIC Teaching [see Isaiah 61:1-3]

"When you read the beatitudes from a prophetic perspective, they become less about your actions – and more about God's action."

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" Matthew 5:4.

Mourn = Greek = πενθέω = Pentheo [To Mourn The Dead/ To Lament/To Wail With Sorrow]

- Suffering Is Both COMMON & UNIQUE Human Experience

"Suffering is both where we look hardest for God and many times it's where God is also most difficult to find." ~Tyler Staton~

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Romans 5:3-5

The Meta Narrative of Scripture

#1. Who Is The Author Of Suffering? SATAN

- Sin & Suffering GRIEVE The Heart of God

"And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart." Gen 6: 6

#2. Who Is The Redeemer Of Suffering? JESUS

- God Enters INTO Our Suffering.

"...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings." Philippians 3:10

- Suffering Is a Part Of Our INHERITANCE As Jesus's Spirit-Filled, Kingdom People

How Do I Find Happiness In My Mourning?

- I CONNECT My Suffering to Jesus's Suffering.

"But the Comforter παράκλητος, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance." John 14:26 [KJV]

Three Ways Jesus, [Through The Holy Spirit] Redeems Our Suffering:

- He Converts Our Suffering Into LOVE
- He Converts Our Suffering Into COMPASSION
- He Converts Our Suffering Into GRATITUDE

"Suffering is the scale that reveals what's real & what is counterfeit in our lives."
~Tyler Staton~

Life Group Questions

Read Matthew 5:4

- Do you have a physical item that brings you immediate comfort when you are having a rough day (e.g., a favorite blanket, a specific mug, a song, a food, a drink)?
- Have you experienced deep grief & mourning? If yes, what brought you comfort?

Read Isaiah 61:1-3

- How does reading this beatitude in the light of God's actions in this world help you understand & apply it?
- How does God's grief towards sin & the suffering it produces (see Genesis 6: 6) help you process through your own suffering?
- How should we as God's Kingdom people respond to sin and the suffering it produces in our personal lives and in the world? (see 2 Corinthians 2:7)
- In your own words, describe how God, in the person of His Son Jesus, entered our suffering. Find a few passages of Scripture to help you understand the Bible story of redemption.

Read Philippians 3:10

- What do you think Paul means when he says that we *"may share in his suffering"*?
- Discuss the statement: *"We do not get a choice in our suffering, but we do get to choose what our suffering & grief does to us."*
- Jesus redeems our suffering by converting it into love, compassion & gratitude. Have you experienced this reality in your life?
- Prayer with and for each other – especially for those who may be in a season of grieving or suffering in your group or in our wider church community.

Source: Tyler Staton – "The Beatitudes" – Bridgetown Church
Peter Burton – "The Beatitudes" – Emmaus Road
William Barclay – "Gospel of Matthew"

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