

## Blessed are They that Mourn

Chase Green

**Matthew 5:4** - "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Jesus' second statement in the Beatitudes moves on from comfort for the physically poor, and on to comfort for the grieving. Grief is a natural part of life. Humans have been given the wonderful capacity to love, but because of sin, life comes with loss, and grief is the natural response to losing something we love.

At times, one may grieve the loss of a precious family heirloom of tremendous sentimental value, or the loss of a job, or friends or family moving away, but of much more intense grief is the loss of a loved one who has passed away. Losing a loved one is consistently ranked as the single most stressful event of human life. Stress, sadness, depression, anger, and despair are all associated with human grief.

Jesus was a "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). Jesus understands the grief that we go through. Jesus cares. And Jesus has this promise for those who mourn: "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Contextually, Jesus is talking about those who are righteous. The blessings of the righteous include comfort for the mourning! Our God is the "God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3). We can cast all of our cares upon Him (1 Pet. 5:7). We can come to Him, weary and heavy laden from our labors, and we can receive rest (Matt. 11:28). All of this is possible because of Jesus Christ! Because of salvation made possible by Jesus Christ, we can have hope, no matter what comes our way.

One of the most hopeful passages in the Bible is Revelation 21:1-7: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Emphasis mine, TCG).

That's God's message of hope for those who mourn! But this hope can only be found in Christ! The very next verse in Revelation 21 contrasts the hope in Christ with the despair of those not in Christ: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Let us strive to be faithful to God so that we can be among the ones who will receive comfort on the Day of Judgment!