

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast
S7E9
Death & Mourning - Matthew 5:4

Description – Continuing to look at the Beatitudes, we examine those who mourn, from Matthew 5:4



Matthew 5:4

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

What does it mean to be blessed when you mourn?

Normally when we think of mourning we think of grief. Where we've lost someone close or dear to us in this life. A close family member.

But even mourning is so different in our culture and context. We don't tear our clothing like the 1st century Jews. We have a memorial service or a funeral, which takes a couple of hours, and that's it. The Jewish funeral would last a full week, and they'd hire professional mourners.

Mourning in this context means to be grieved over injustice in society, mourning over abuse, or wrongs in life & society.

Think about it in the context of today. You can be angry while stuck in traffic and it leads to road rage, or you can be angry about sex trafficking which leads to a passion to drive change in society around you.

The beatitudes really show the depth of emotion that we as humans struggle and deal with in our lives.

Why would Jesus allow us to mourn? It should point out a deeper desire in us. A desire to be with Jesus, when he returns and one day wipes away every tear.

Mourning reminds us that we are mortal. Funerals are spiritual break pads to slow us down. Death forces us to pause and reflect.

Death is a product of sin, but one day the King is coming, the King who conquered Death once and for all.

Isaiah 61:1-4

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn, ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the LORD to glorify him. ⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore the former devastations; they will renew the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

The mourners in Isaiah 61? Who are they? They are the Israelites in captivity/exile in Babylon.

These are people who have been uprooted from their land, their country, their homes, their jobs, their schools, their houses of worship. They've been taken away as slaves.

They're grieving over the loss, not just their own loss, but the loss of the whole nation. It would be like Russia conquering the United States and exporting us all off to Siberia.

The mourning here in Isaiah 61 is a mourning for restoration, both to the land, but also to God.

When Jesus says blessed are those who Mourn, for they will be comforted, He's saying they will be drawn close to God. The mourning will be answered as they're drawn close to God.

Luke 6:21b

²¹ ...Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh.

When you're broken over your sin, when you weep over it, God will cleanse you and you will be made holy before Him.

Two episodes, two beatitudes done! More next week!