TITLE: Mourning our way to Heaven

TEXT: Mt. 5:1-4; 2nd Co. 7:8-11; Is. 61:1-3;

Rev. 7:15-17 & 21:3-4

INTRODUCTION: In Matthew Chapter 5 we find the beatitudes of Christ. The first beatitude is

**Matthew 5:1-3(NIV)**  **1Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,**  **2and he began to teach them, saying:**  **3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

 To be blessed is to be happy, to be fully satisfied in life and in our relationship with the Lord. our being blessed as we become poor in spirit, to crucify our pride on the cross of Christ and stand before God and our fellow man in true humility...

 This morning I want to talk about the second beatitude.....

**Matt 5:4 (NIV) Blessed are those who mourn,**

**for they will be comforted.**

What does Jesus mean? Blessed are those who mourn?

The word for mourn used here is:

**3996 pentheo {pen-theh'-o}**

**2) to mourn for, lament one, to wail**

**3997 penthos {pen'-thos}**

**sorrow, mourning**

Almost sounds like a contradiction in terms.

 Blessed, happy, fully satisfied are those who mourn, those who sorrow.

 How can you be blessed, be happy, and mourn, be sorrowful, at the same time?

 How can mourning cause us to be blessed, to be fully satisfied in life.

**Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted!**

First, we need to come to an understanding of just what it is that we are to mourn, what we are to feel sorrowful about....

In these first verses of Matthew Ch. 5, the beatitudes, Jesus gives us not just ways that we can be blessed, but He outlines the process of Salvation itself.

 The first beatitude-Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.....

 Blessed are the poor in spirit---Being poor in spirit is coming to the realization that our righteousness, no matter how good we may be, is as filthy rags in the sight of God. It is recognizing that in and of ourselves we are nothing; we have nothing that we can offer God to pay the price for or make up for our sin.

 Being poor in spirit is simply coming unto Him in complete humility and crying out for, not justice, but His for mercy.

 This is exactly what the first step of salvation is…

 To humbly come before God, recognizing our sinful condition and crying out for His mercy!

 Blessed are those who mourn is the next step in our salvation process.

 After we come to God in Humility, recognizing our sinful condition, the next thing that must happen in the salvation process is we need to come to a place of mourning.

 What we need to Mourn, feel sorrowful about, is our sin.

 If we have never come to the place of sorrowing for our sin then we are not saved.

 Repentance is necessary for salvation and if we are not sorry for our sins then we will not really repent of them.

 You see, If we feel we have nothing to be sorry for then how can we will feel that we have something to be saved from.

 After some rather stern rebukes by letter to the Church at Corinth, Paul writes these words to them.

 **2Cor 7:8 (NIV) Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it--I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while--**

**9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.**

**10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.**

**11 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.**

Did you catch that?

**Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret**s!

 There are two types of sorrow and we will embrace either one or the other.

 We will either embrace Godly sorrow, sorrow for sin, which leads to repentance and leaves no regrets.

 Or we will embrace the sorrow of this world, the sorrow of remaining in our sins and facing eternal death which will one day lead us to a terrible regret.

 The Godly sorrow that leads to repentance, to salvation, is being sorry for, mourning for sin now, and because of that sorrow, being willing to repent, to turn from our sin and embrace the living God.

A Sunday School teacher once asked a class what was meant by the word "repentance." A little boy put up his hand and said, "It is being sorry for your sins." A little girl also raised her hand and said, "It is being sorry enough to quit."

 Out of the mouth of babes!

 Real mourning for sin, true repentance is not just being sorry for our sin but being sorry enough to make us quit!

 This Godly sorrow, Paul says, **brings repentance**

 It is only when we truly mourn for our sin, see it in the same light that God sees it, that we will ever be able to repent of it, turn from it...

 And when we do, Scripture says, that the same mourning that brings us to repentance will also secure our salvation!.

**Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret**s!

**991 soteria {so-tay-ree'-ah}**

**1) deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation**

**1a) deliverance from the molestation of enemies**

**(Satan) (Hell)**

**1b) in an ethical sense, that which concludes to the souls safety or salvation**

**2) salvation as the present possession of all true Christians. 3) future salvation, the sum of benefits and blessings which the**

**Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God.**

A.W. Pink speaks of our salvation as being Fourfold: saved from the penalty, power, presence and most importantly the pleasure of sin.

 **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret**s!

 I have never met a person who has accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord and savior of their life, who has come to this Godly sorrow, this mourning for sin, who has received salvation, who has ever expressed regret for doing so! Even if they may be going through trials and tribulations because of their faith!

There are no regrets in Jesus Christ!

 There are no regrets in this life and there will certainly be no regrets when we get to eternity!

 Why? Because of the sustaining grace that God has for us in our salvation!

The sustaining grace that God has for us in our life now and the promise of **our** complete salvation, the redemption of these bodies when the lord comes for us to take us to be with Him forever!

 **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret**s!

Another thing that Godly sorrow for our own sin will produce within us is more mourning and more sorrowing!

 A mourning and sorrowing for the sins and lost souls of others!

Once we have come to mourn for our own sins we will start to mourn for the sins of others as we see them enslaved to the cruel taskmaster of sin!

A powerful example of this kind of Godly sorrow being manifest in the life of a Christian is in a story about Dwight Moody..

Example: As he looks out over the streets of downtown Chicago with tears in his eyes---seeing thousands walking the streets below, many who are lost in their sins and going to hell!

 This is not just the kind of Godly sorrow that leads to repentance! This is the kind of Godly sorrow that leads to salvation!

 Not just one’s own salvation but as we mourn for a lost world, become genuinely concerned for lost souls, our morning will result in salvation!

 For true morning will motivate us to reach out to the lost, it will motivate us to share our faith, as we share what Jesus has done for us, with them!

A Christian who doesn't mourn for sin, first their own sin and then the sinful condition of others will never be one who has a real concern for the lost!

Church, all the great men and women of God have had one thing in common.....they were all great mourners! Moses mourned for the faithless Israelites in the desert!

 David mourned greatly when he fell to sin!

 The prophets mourned for the sins of a nation!

 Jesus mourned, He sweat drops of blood as the sins of the world where literally coming down upon His shoulders!

 The apostles mourned as the gospel message of eternal life in Christ fell on the death ears of their countrymen!

 As Christians today, we need to mourn as we see the sin of the world around us and the countless souls that are lined up and headed for hell!

 Like Dwight Moody It ought to tear at our heart and bring tears to our eyes!

 Church, mourning may not be fun but for the child of God, it's just necessary! Necessary if we are to do what God has called us to do, reach a lost world with the life-giving message of the Gospel of Christ!

 Through The prophet Isaiah the Lord tells us the ministry that you and I as believers have been entrusted with....

**Isai 61:1 (NIV) The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me**

**to preach good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,**

**to proclaim freedom for the captives**

**and release from darkness for the prisoners,**

**2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor**

**and the day of vengeance of our God,**

**to comfort all who mourn,**

**3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion--**

**to bestow on them a crown of beauty**

**instead of ashes, the oil of gladness**

**instead of mourning, and a garment of praise**

**instead of a spirit of despair.**

**They will be called oaks of righteousness,**

**a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.**

Scripture says that there are two types of mourning to be embraced....

 Either Godly sorrow, mourning for our sin, which leads us to repentance and salvation or ...

worldly sorrow, mourning because of our sin, which will lead us to death....

 Once we embrace the first, Godly sorrow for sin, we are called to minister to the second, a lost world that is sorrowing because of sin!

We have been called to: Preach good news to the poor.

Bind up the brokenhearted, Proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

Comfort all who mourn, Provide for those who grieve.

Bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Jesus said: **Blessed, happy, fully satisfied, are they that mourn for they shall be comforted!**

The promise for those who mourn!

 We shall be comforted!

**3870 parakaleo {par-ak-al-eh'-o}**

**12c) to console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to be comforted**

You want to hear the fulfillment of the promise of comfort for those who mourn, who have a Godly sorrow for sin?

**Reve 7:15 (NIV) Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.**

**16 Never again will they hunger;**

**never again will they thirst.**

**The sun will not beat upon them,**

**nor any scorching heat.**

**17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.**

**And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."**

**Reve 21:"They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**

**4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain!**

This is the promised comfort for those that mourn.

 That Mourn sin, first in our own life and then mourn it as we see it and its effects in the lives of others.

We shall be comforted, encouraged, consoled by God Himself!

 How about you this morning?

 Can you claim this promise of comfort?

Have you come to the place of mourning, of genuinely sorrowing for your sin?

 Has your mourning reaped the fruit of repentance and salvation for your life?

And do you mourn for the sins of others, Do you have a heart that is breaking for those around you who are lost and headed for hell?

 Will your name be listed along with all the great mourners of the faith!

 It will be to those that mourn that Jesus will one day say:

 **Well done, good and faithful servant, now enter into the rest that has been prepared for you sense the foundation of the world!**

 Is it your hope to one day have the Lord comfort you with those words? Well done good and faithful servant, now come on in!

 Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted!

 Are you mourning your way to heaven this morning?