

Living the Beatitudes (Part 3)

“Blessed are those who Mourn...”

As we unpack the remaining beatitudes, let's consider the following questions for each:

1. How does this quality of the Kingdom defy the value system of this world?
2. How does this quality of the Kingdom become “salt” and “light” to the world (5:13-14)?
3. How is the reward associated with this quality realized in this life?

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

“Mourn” implies some kind of **loss**...some kind of **suffering**.

The world system avoids suffering and loss at all costs...anxious, fearful, self-centered to hold on...
Sees it as weakness and vulnerability

- **Mourning invites a visitation and presence of God in a special way that transcends weakness**

Psalms 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

2 Cor. 12:9-10

“My grace is all you need. **My power works best in weakness.**” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Isaiah 40:1-2, 10-11

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Tell her that her sad days are gone and her sins are pardoned. Yes, the Lord has punished her twice over for all her sins.”

Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power. **He will rule with a powerful arm.** See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. **He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.**

- **Bearing up under loss uniquely witnesses to the lost and strengthens the believing.**

1 Peter 3:14-15

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense **to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you,** yet with gentleness and reverence...

Luke 22:31-32

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

- **This is the Core Truth and Power of the Cross**

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And **by His scourging we are healed.**

2 Cor. 4:8-15

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰ Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

¹¹ Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. ¹² So we live in the face of death, **but this has resulted in eternal life for you.**

¹³ But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, “I believed in God, so I spoke.” ¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. ¹⁵ **All of this is for your benefit. And as God’s grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.**

- **This “Comfort” is the resource of our endurance and strength to overcome in this life.**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ **comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.**

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ **knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**