

**Blessed Are The Mournful And The Meek?**  
**(Matthew 5:4-5 and 2 Corinthians 7:8-11)**

\_\_\_\_\_ aren't really the issue here. And Jesus isn't telling us that mourning the death or suffering of a loved one is "happy, fortunate or blissful." Jesus is talking about our hearts... our attitudes... what comes from within us... and He's zeroing in on the very thing that brought about suffering, death and mourning in the first place - \_\_\_\_\_.

How deeply do you understand the real implications of sin in your life, and the lives of those around you? Do you see the actions and attitudes of your life that don't square with God's will? Do you mourn over sin's affect on you, those around you, and even more importantly on your relationship with God? And, if you're finding yourself hindered or hesitant in confronting sin in your life, what is it that is hindering you?

**I. Are You Just \_\_\_\_\_... Or Really \_\_\_\_\_?**

To mourn over our sin is much more than \_\_\_\_\_. Paul speaks about Godly sorrow in 2 Corinthians 7:8-11.

When there is sin in your life does it bring on guilt or even anger when you get caught? Or, does it bring a sense of conviction in that you have sinned against your God? (Psalm 51:4; Psalm 34:18)

**II. Has Your \_\_\_\_\_ Brought About \_\_\_\_\_?**

Paul wrote: *"For God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret that kind of sorrow. But sorrow without repentance is the kind that results in death."* (2 Cor. 7:10 NLT)  
Godly sorrow... genuine mourning always works itself out in repentance!  
What is *repentance*?

(1) One verb form means to regret or "repent" of oneself. Here is human sorrow, such as Paul initially regretting the harshness of his letter. Another example is found in God "repenting". This isn't speaking of a change of mind, but of regret for an action that needs to be made.

(2) The second verb form, and in context with "*mourning*" in our text means to "change one's mind, heart or purpose." When used in the New Testament,

it always involves or calls for a change for the better, and always in regards to repentance from sin. (c.f. Acts 2:38)

Repentance may begin with sorrow, but it \_\_\_\_\_. It then manifests itself in the mind so that we literally change our way of thinking and living (c.f. Psalm 51:17).

### **III. Has Your \_\_\_\_\_ Brought You \_\_\_\_\_?**

(C.f. Joel 2:13; Micah 7:18; 2 Cor. 1:3) Sin = rebellion with God. How can a Christian be comforted when they've separated themselves from God? How can someone without Christ find comfort without hope of eternal life?

### **IV. What \_\_\_\_\_ Our Being \_\_\_\_\_? (5:5)**

One of the greatest hindrances in our relationship with the Lord, and of the most wretched and yet prevalent of root sins is - \_\_\_\_\_. To be meek is the opposite of being prideful, of self-assertiveness, and self-interest. It is not weakness or wimpiness; but supreme self-control empowered by God's Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:23).

Of Himself, Jesus said, *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek (gentle in NKJV) and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."* (Matthew 11:29) And it was Jesus who said, *"If any man desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."* (Matt. 16:24)

### **Concluding Thoughts...**

*"For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'" (Isaiah 57:15)*

God dwells or abides with the mournful and meek, and those who are poor in spirit. The genuine Christian life cannot be lived apart from these.