

KINGDOM ATTRIBUTES

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

Tanya Goffin

What does blessed mean?

Happy, to be envied (NOT the absence of difficulties or controversies)

What does 'mourn' mean? Why is it so important?

In the Greek it is a very strong word = broken heart. Equivalent to the intensity and desperation that accompanies bereavement

What does comfort mean?

'Draw near'

Therefore:

- Applies to all of us.
- A radically different route to happiness! We need to be born again.

Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5, NLT)

We are totally helpless. We have no answers. We need saving. There is nothing intrinsically good about us at all. 'We have ALL sinned' (Romans 3:9)

Foundational key is 'poor in spirit' = a constant never ending realisation of total reliance and confidence in God.

Our utter helplessness, a total absence of pride, real humility (not low self-esteem or false humility) is the foundational quality.

A different kingdom with different 'laws' – story of 2 kingdoms – darkness and light

Many Christians try to live in both with disastrous results and lifelong misery.

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. (Colossians 1:13-14, NLT)

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17, NLT)

- Pursuing Jesus not happiness
- Illustrates the huge difference between the world and the church. The world has sticking plasters for problems not answers
- Foundational key is 'poor in spirit' = a constant never ending realisation of total reliance and confidence in God. Our utter helplessness, a total absence of pride. Real humility (not low self esteem or false humility) is the foundational quality.

Why Is This So Important?

- Because of the widespread prevalence of 'easy believism' in the Christian church and media today. Taking God for granted. 'It's His job to forgive me'.
- The 'accepting of Jesus' but with no real deep sorrow for sin and no transformation. The weeping must come before 'the joy in the morning'. It must be a continual process after the initial step of asking Jesus into our lives.

When I sin it should make me feel miserable and deeply sorrowful and desperate to make things right with God = repentance. This is a lifestyle.

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. (2 Corinthians 7:10, NLT)

- God (like any father) wants us to happy. (i.e. the prodigal son)

What Do I Need To Do?

- Hear from God - Not just generically but specifically and get into the Word.
- Prayer – Real mourning manifests itself in more prayer.
- Genuinely seek God to reveal to you your personal areas of pride and ask him to root them out. (Psalm 51)

Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just... Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me now let me rejoice... Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me... Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. (Psalms 51:4-12, NLT)

- Pursue God until you experience His comfort and nearness. No one desires it more than Him. He wants us to have peace and joy in our lives. He wants to break the power of sin in our lives.

FB Myers

Behold God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song. (Isaiah 12:2, KJV)

THIS EXQUISITE Psalm of Hope seems prepared for the day when Jew and Gentile, gathered into one Church, shall stand on the shores of eternity with palms of victory. Here, is the Song of Moses and the Lamb!

Salvation was peculiarly associated with the Feast of Tabernacles, which was the type of that consummation of God's purpose, which shall take place when His Tabernacle is with men, and He shall dwell with them (Revelations 21:3). Do not fear God is with us, as Strength, and Song, and Salvation. He shares our wilderness march. We are folded under the shadow of His tent. We are permitted to reckon on Him as our Partner and Companion... The weakest saint can claim all needed supplies from God and He admits the plea, saying, "Child, thou art ever with Me, and all that I have is thine" (Luke 15:31).

Unfailing supplies "wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles the priests drew water in a golden pitcher from the Pool of Siloam and poured it forth in the Temple while the choir chanted this verse in memory of the rock-water that followed the desert march. Every attribute of God, every means of grace, every helpful and loving ministry, every promise of scripture is a well, and faith is our pitcher (John 7:37). But we must draw. Faith is the bucket, which we let down into the fullness of the Divine supply. It is not simply the general belief that God hears and answers prayer, but the specific and particular belief that God has answered or will answer your prayer for some special needed grace, and that it is yours. Believe that ye have received. Draw water out of the well!

"Thou comfortest me" (Isaiah 12:1). There is no such Comforter as God. "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you." He is expressly described as "the God of all Comfort." Is it not too much to ask that Thou shouldst stoop out of Thy high heaven to comfort me, whose heart is heavy with grief and whose eyes are red with weeping? He wipes the tears from all eyes, and staunches the very fountains of grief. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." I shall yet praise Thee

Streams in the desert, Mrs Charles E Cowman

"For God hath made me fruitful in the land of my affliction" (Genesis 41:52)

The summer showers are falling. The poet stands by the window watching them. They are beating and buffeting the earth with their fierce downpour. But the poet sees in his imaginings more than the showers, which are falling before his eyes. He sees myriads of lovely flowers, which shall be soon breaking forth from the watered earth, filling it with matchless beauty and fragrance. And so he sings:

*"It isn't raining rain for me, it's raining daffodils
In every dimpling drop I see wild flowers upon the hills.
A cloud of grey engulfs the day, and overwhelms the town
It isn't raining rain for me: it's raining roses down."*

Perchance some one of God's chastened children is even now saying, "O God, it is raining hard for me tonight.

"Testings' are raining upon me which seem beyond my power to endure. Disappointments are raining fast, to the utter defeat of all my chosen plans. Bereavements are raining into my life, which are making my shrinking heart quiver in its intensity of suffering. The rain of affliction is surely beating down upon my soul these days."

Withal, friend, you are mistaken. It isn't raining rain for you. It's raining blessing. For, if you will but believe your Father's Word, under that beating rain are springing up spiritual flowers of such fragrance and beauty as never before grew in that storm less, un-chastened life of yours. You indeed see the rain. But do you see also the flowers? You are pained by the testings. But God sees the sweet flower of faith, which is up springing in your life under those very trials.

You shrink from the suffering. But God sees the tender compassion for other sufferers, which is finding birth in your soul. Your heart winces under the sore bereavement. But God sees the deepening and enriching, which that sorrow has brought to you.

It isn't raining afflictions for you. It is raining tenderness, love, compassion, patience, and a thousand other flowers and fruits of the blessed Spirit, which are bringing into your life such a spiritual enrichment as all the fullness of worldly prosperity and ease was never able to beget in your innermost soul. -- J. M. McC