

**Sermon on the Mount #3**  
**Blessed are Those Who Mourn!**

Matthew 5:3-12

**I. Sermon on the Mount: Brief Refresher (Mt.5:48)**

A. Jesus' called us to pursue a lifestyle of obedience that seeks to be perfected (mature in obedience). Walking mature in our obedience is relative in this age and absolute in the age-to-come. In this age, we never attain to perfection in the absolute sense. We are to walk in the fullness of the light that we receive from the Spirit. This includes declaring war on all our lust that the Spirit reveals.

**Mt. 5:48** You shall be perfect (walk in all the light you receive) as your Father...is perfect.

B. The pursuit of 100-fold obedience includes making a covenant with our eyes (Ps. 101:3; Job 31:1), bridling our speech (Jas 3:2; Eph. 4:29-5:4), managing our time (for service and prayer with the Word, (Eph. 5:15-16) and money to increase the Kingdom beyond our personal comfort and honor (Mt. 6:19-21) as we engage in communing prayer with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14).

C. In the sermon on the mount Jesus gave six practical areas in which we must wage war against lust (1 Pet. 2:11): anger (spirit of murder, Mt. 5:21-26), adultery (spirit of immorality, Mt. 5:27-30), disregarding the sanctity of marriage (spirit of treachery, Mal. 2:13-17 or disloyalty that disregards the sanctity of marriage, Mt. 5:31-32), false commitments (spirit of manipulation that seeks to promote ourselves, Mt. 5:33-37). To use "spin" to present ourselves in a false way about our commitments in the past and the present (by lack of follow through), demanding personal justice (spirit of pride or bitterness that insists on our personal rights, Mt. 5:38-41) and refusing to retaliate (spirit of revenge or animosity in relationships, Mt. 5:42-47).

D. Jesus also describes five "grace-releasing activities" in our secret life that position our heart to receive more strength in the grace of God. Our heart receives more grace as we consistently and secretly serve and give (charitable deeds: giving service and/or money (6:1-4, 19-21), pray (6:5-13), bless adversaries (forgiving, 6:14-15; 5:44) and fast (6:16-18). The progressive working out of this lifestyle within the context of our devotional life as the Holy Spirit disciplines us into someone that resembles Jesus and brings glory to God is what happens when these methods are embraced and pursued.

**II. The Eight Beatitudes: Brief Definitions (Mt. 5:3-12)**

**Introduction:** True spiritual reality is defined by the 8 beatitudes. This is the character of Jesus, true christlikeness! These describe what pleases God and what Jesus has in mind for creation and will duplicate in the nations through His ministry as King. Implied in all of God's commands is the promise of the enabling grace to walk out the command. Thus, all eight beatitudes are a part of our inheritance. God will bless the pursuit and progressive attainment of these 8 expressions of grace in the heart.

**A. Being poor in spirit** (theirs is the kingdom of heaven, Mt. 5:3) – to acknowledge that we are in great need of help to sustain wholeheartedness. This is to understand, that we are in a serious dilemma in needing a breakthrough (insight/power) in our heart for godliness.

**B. Mourning for breakthrough** (for they shall be comforted, Mt. 5:4) – to be desperate enough to be "extreme" in our pursuit of a progressive breakthrough of insight (revelation) and power (divine enablement) in our heart and ministry.

**C. Walking in meekness** (shall inherit the earth, Mt. 5:5) – to walk in the fasted lifestyle or to have a servant spirit in the use of our natural strengths (time, money, energy, reputation, authority, etc.). Humility or meekness speaks of using our resources with a servant spirit, as we lay down personal rights in serving without regard for receiving the reward (honor, money) from people.

**D. Hungering for righteousness** (for they shall be filled, Mt. 5:6) – sustained faithfulness in seeking God with wholeheartedness through changing circumstances and seasons of our life.

**E. Relating to others with mercy** (for they shall obtain mercy, Mt. 5:7) – having a tender spirit in how we treat others in light of receiving God's mercy in our many failures (Ps. 18:35; 130:3-4).

**F. Being pure in heart** (they shall see God, Mt. 5:8) – breakthrough of purity in our thoughts (bitterness, immorality) and motives (helping people for their benefit without any personal gain).

**G. Becoming an anointed peacemaker** (called sons of God, Mt. 5:9) – anointing to bring peace (reconciliation) to that which is out of God's will (restoring relationships, bodies, legislation).

**H. Enduring persecution** (theirs is the kingdom, Mt. 5:10-12) – bearing the counterattack for plundering Satan's Kingdom because we operate in the power of grace and stand for righteousness.

**IV. The Eight Beatitudes: Blessed are they that Mourn! ( for they shall be comforted!)**

**A. It is in the wilderness experience where the people of God are meant to learn well their own powerlessness and weakness (Poor in Spirit). After trying everything of our own strength to change our circumstances and ourselves to no avail, when we finally in desperation cry out for deliverance to God (Mourning) and He becomes our Everything and Only One, we are beginning to learn the lesson of the wilderness.**

**Hosea 13:5-6** I knew you in the wilderness, in the land of great drought. 6 When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me.

**B. The wilderness is meant to expose our weakness and produce absolute dependence on God. This is a uniquely designed place made to “set us up” for a heart of true humility (Meekness), our circumstances often forcing us to acknowledge our hopeless and helpless state. It is here that we are broken so that we will draw near to Him. This is where He will meet us and speak tenderly to us drawing us into deeper intimacy with Him.**

**Hosea 2:14** 'Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her.

**James 4:8-10** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

**Psalms 34:17-18** The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

**C. Our Bridegroom brings us into the trial of the wilderness to produce these much needed revelations (Poor in Spirit, Mourning, and Meekness) so that He can speak comfort to us and develop a bride that loves and leans on her Beloved One. The first three beatitudes Poverty of Spirit (brokenness to the arm of flesh); Mourning (crying out for divine intervention and transformation); and Meekness (humility that produces a loving and leaning heart) are meant to bring us to a sustained hunger for He Who's name is Righteous.**

**Song of Solomon 8:5** Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved? I awakened you under the apple tree. There your mother brought you forth; There she who bore you brought you forth.

**Ephesians 5:26-27** ...that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

**D. It may surprise some to know that Jesus experienced regular rejection, sorrows and grief that kept Him in the place of humility and weakness before God as He leaned dependently on the Father through the Spirit sustaining hunger and pursuit of righteousness as a Man in perfect obedience.**

**John 1:11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

**Isaiah 53:3** He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

**E. In more than one of the messianic prophecies of the O.T. Jesus is described as broken before God and may have had what could be described as a less than perfectly happy childhood.**

**Psalms 69:7-12** Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face. 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; 9 Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. 10 When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. 11 I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. 12 Those who sit in the gate speak against me, and I am the song of the drunkards.

**Psalms 22:6-8** But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people. 7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

**F. Sadly, there are many in the body of Christ, that in the pain of the silence, delay and wait of the wilderness don't come to brokenness very readily. At these times many go off of the intended purpose of the Spirit of God and in frustration display anger (at others w/ blame, at ourselves w/ self-hatred, or at God w/ mistrust in leadership and timing) or self-pity or some other manifestation of the flesh.**

**Psalms 73:22-28** I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. 26 My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works.

**G. Jesus, our great Captain of Salvation, did not waste His sorrows and difficulties, but in faith turned them into divine opportunities by embracing weakness (I am lowly of heart) and crying out in the pain of the wilderness for God to intervene with salvation!**

**Luke 4:1-2** Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

**Hebrews 5:7-8** who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.