



KICK OFF

Is spiritual mourning as present in the church as it once was? Why or why not?



KEY VERSE

Matthew 5:4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.'



BIG IDEA

A Christian mourns over their sins, other's sins, and the sin's of the world.



INVESTIGATE

WEEPING OVER SIN

Read Matthew 5:4

1. The Old Testament speaks of people weeping/mourning over sin. Psalm 119:36; Ezekiel 9:4; Ezra 10:1; Psalm 51: 1—4
What do we learn?
2. Jesus and Paul wept over the sins of others. Luke 13:31-35; Phil 3:18.
What do we learn?
3. Was Cranmer exaggerating when in his 1662 Holy Communion service he put into the lips of church people the words, 'we acknowledge *and bewail* our manifold sins and wickedness?' (Definition of bewail: mourn for)
4. Was Ezra in Ezra 10:1 mistaken to pray and make confession, 'weeping and casting himself down before the house of God?'
Why or why not?
5. Read Romans 7:24; 1 Corinthians 5:2; 2 Corinthians 12:21'7:10; for more New Testament examples.
6. Is it possible to over emphasize grace and therefore think less of our sin? Explain.



DIG DEEPER

"To mourn is something that follows of necessity from being 'poor in spirit.' It is quite inevitable. As I confront God and His holiness, and contemplate the life that I am meant to live, I see myself, my utter helplessness and hopelessness. I discover my quality of spirit and immediately that makes me mourn. I must mourn about the fact that I am like that. But obviously it does not stop there. A man who truly faces himself, and examines himself and his life, is a man who must of necessity mourn for his sins also, for the things he does. Now the great experts in the life of the spirit have always recommended self-examination. They all recommend and practice it themselves. They say it is a good thing for every man to pause at the end of the day and meditate upon himself, to run quickly over his life and ask, 'what have I done, what have I said, what have I thought, how have I behaved with respect to others?' Now if you do that any night of your life, you will find that you have done things which you should not have done, you will be conscious of having harboured thoughts and ideas and feelings which are quite unworthy. And, as he realizes these things, any man who is at all Christian is smitten with a sense of grief and sorrow that he was ever capable of such things in action or in thought. And that makes him mourn. But he does not stop merely at things he has done, he meditates upon and contemplates his actions and his state and condition of sinfulness, and as he thus examines himself he must go through that experience of Romans 7." cont'd

THE PLEASURE OF THE MOURNERS

7. How can such mourning bring pleasure? Matthew 5:4 Lenski wrote 'the greatest of all comfort is the absolution pronounced upon every contrite mourning sinner.'
8. What is the role of the prophecied Messiah according to Isaiah 61:1, 40:1? Who was Simeon looking for? Luke 2:25
9. When will such mourning end? Revelation 7:17, 21:1-5



THINK AND APPLY

10. Would you describe yourself/or people as mourners? If not, how would you describe yourself/other people?
11. What is there to mourn about:
In yourself.
In the world
12. How would a lack of mourning contribute to our experience or inexperience of God's comfort?



Praise God for the challenges raised by God's Word through this study.

Praying for others in your group:



We're thinking about a camping trip to Wilson's Promontory. Interested?



How does this passage apply to our daily life?

"He must become aware of these evil principles that are within him. He must ask himself. 'what is it in me that makes me behave like that? Why should I be irritable? Why should I be bad tempered? Why am I not able to control myself? Why do I harbor that unkind, jealous, and envious thought? What is it in me?'...It is quite inevitable. Now this is not imagination; it is actual experience and true to fact. It is a very thorough-going test. If I object to this kind of teaching, it just means that I do not mourn....The Christian does not just mourn over his own sins, but about society, the whole world, Lloyd-Jones p62-3

PRAISE GOD that his holiness is too pure to look on sin, and yet, Jesus Christ bore all of our sin and ungodliness on the cross.

CONFESS that we need a greater conviction of our sin.

ASK GOD to help you mourn over the state of your soul and life, society and the whole world.

PRAY ALSO
For a spiritual revival by the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon our nation. Pray for the preaching of God's Word to be enlivened by the Spirit so that the church is brought to life.



For next week's study read Matthew 5:5