

Joy in the Lord Part 3: Joy for the Sorrowful

February 19, 2023

Matthew 5:4, John 11:27-38

Mourn: sadness, grieve, lament, heart-felt sadness, withered with grief. Is this Abraham's grief in Gen. 23:2? Or Jacob's grief of Gen. 37:34? The passage in Matt. 5:4 is primarily not about the loss of loved ones, it is more, dealing with spiritual issues.

2 Categories of Sorrow: Sorrow because of (1) Depravity and of (2) Defiance.

1) **Sorrow because of Depravity**: There is mourning that is godly sorrow that leads to repentance and worldly sorrow that leads to death, 2 Cor. 7:10. This is the sorrow of offending a Holy God because of my sin.

a. Godly conviction and sorrow lead to conversion and joy, Is. 1:18, Rom. 7:24-25.

b. Salvation is a monergistic work of God (God initiated work). Joy is the result of God's work in me to save me.

(3) Circumstances when mourning sin is appropriate: **1) To have an honest view of our own soul**. Do I truly mourn my own sin that offends a Holy God? Sin offends God. God is Holy, Is. 6:1-5. **2) To have a proper view of the Holiness of God**. Do we mourn the sin we commit? Are we full of pride and consider our sin (1 Cor. 5:2)? Are we subject to God, have we cleansed our hands and mourned over our sin (James 4:7-10)? There is joy in our salvation. The prideful Christian can't access joy because they are hiding sin. **3) To have a sober view of the end of our life**. Eccl. 7:2,4, contemplate the day of our death. Judgement is coming for each one, Heb. 9:27.

2) **Sorrow because of Defiance**: Satan's sway and sin's consequences are evident: We have sorrows of: Broken bodies: 2 Cor. 5:1-2. Self-inflicted judgement: Luke 19:41. Injustice: Ps. 42:9. The lost among us Rom. 9:1-3. Gospel ministry, a mercy of God (2 Cor. 4) with sorrow and rejoicing in those who reject and accept. Christ a man of sorrows, Is. 53:3.

Examining the Story of Lazarus from John 11:27-38

Jesus delayed in coming to the message of Lazarus being sick, Jn. 11:2. Jesus didn't weep (11:35) for the death of Lazarus because Jesus delayed on purpose (Jn. 11:4, 7). Jesus knew He was going to raise him from the dead (Jn. 11:4, 15). This word "wept" in v35 is not used again in John or other places in the NT epistles. The phrase "groaned in the spirit and troubled" means: troubled, bothered, irritated, indignant. Jesus' reaction would have been like a snort or groan.

>>The depravity of man originated with sin in the Garden of Eden. God communed with Adam and Eve. They were to tend and keep the Garden and not eat of the fruit in the midst of the Garden. When they sinned, pleasure turned to pain, fellowship with God became separation, and work became toil. Jesus closes the gap between man and God. Death is the enemy, 1 Cor. 15:52-5. Ps. 18:5, "the snares of death." Ps. 55:4, "terrors of death." Ps. 107:10,14 "shadow of death." Eccl. 8:8, "no one has power in the day of death." Rom. 6:23, "the wages of sin is death."
>>The defiance of man is shown. Insufficient faith was demonstrated by those close to Jesus in His power over death, (Jn. 4:48, 5:25, 28, 6:39, 40, 44, 51). The Jews wanted to kill Jesus because of the resurrection of Lazarus, Jn. 11:53. Jesus' baptism (His suffering to death) would cause Him distress until accomplished, Luke 12:50. Jesus is the 2nd Adam (Rom. 5) who bore our sins (Is. 53:4-5) and has undone the sorrow of depravity and defiance.

>>Death will be defeated, 1 Cor. 15:52-56. Fullness of Joy is found in the Father's presence, Ps. 16:11. What is the comfort of those who mourn in Is. 61:1-3? The day of the vengeance of our God. Rev. 6, the martyrs ask for vengeance as well. When does the mourning end? Rev. 21:4.

Further Discussion and Application

Mourning over our sin brings comfort to our lives? How does confessing and mortifying our sin become an action that brings comfort? How does it bring glory to God? How does calling out our sin and confronting our sin bring comfort in our lives and of the lives of others?

Jesus' power over death is something that we accept by faith. Those in the time of Jesus looked at waiting until 4 days after Lazarus' death as a sign that it was His absence that prevented Him from healing Lazarus. We know from Scripture that Jesus healed a nobleman's son by a word (Jn. 4:46-54). Many miracles had confirmed Jesus' power over all kinds of diseases and sicknesses even death. When we read Jesus' words in John 17:17, what should we expect from learning the word of God and its power to sanctify us? What other promises of Jesus come to mind and how should we receive and put to action those? What habits of godliness demonstrate our reliance upon the Lord?

Being poor in spirit qualifies us for being citizens of the kingdom of God (Matt. 5:3). What comfort will we receive from mourning our sin? What do we realize more and more about our sin when we consider the price paid by Christ to forgive it?

Read 1 John 3:1-3. What is the gift received by believers? What can't the world ever know about our Father and Savior? What is the result of a believer who longs for the coming of the Lord and being with Him forever?

1 John 2:15-17 gives us what our focus should be on as a believer. How does putting away the cares and desires of the world prepare us for our eternal home in heaven? Why does John command us not to love the world? How does 1 John 5:21 restate 1 John 2:15-17 and 1 John 3:3?