

To Mourn, To Be Meek

Matt 5:3-4

Chapter 5:3-4

Q: Why is mourning good? Ecclesiastes 7:2

1. Being able to grieve before God or anyone is a sign of intimacy. It's a sign of being vulnerable and opens us up to encouragement, healing and recovery. When we can't open up to others we hold it inside and often delay or even put off healing altogether. It is not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength of personal character and a sign of trust in the one you've poured your heart out to.

2. Jesus openly mourned. Mourning helps us remember that this was not meant to be the natural order. Grief reminds us of the fallen nature of our world and it's need for redemption. All creation groans and we weep at every sign of it.

Q: We often hear this verse qualified as mourning for sin, where do we get that from?

God commends us for spiritual sorrow., sorrow for sin and the repentance that follows. In 2 Cor 7, Paul speaks toward a situation where he disciplined that church and they were brought to sorrow. He qualifies that sorrow as being "godly" sorrow that leads to repentance rather than "worldly" sorrow that leads to death. Not all sorrow or in this case, feeling of guilt, is good. Only that which leads us to God for forgiveness, grace and mercy. Only godly desires leads us to live more holy afterwards. Jesus was the ultimate fulfilling of this and every beatitude and we read it in Psalm 34:

*17The righteous cry, and the LORD hears
And delivers them out of all their troubles.*

*18The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

*19Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

*20He keeps all his bones,
Not one of them is broken.*

Q: What does it mean to be meek?

Holding back in reserve your reputation and power. Jesus held back. His kingdom was not of this world (Pilate). He could have called legions of angels. (Matt 26:53, John 18:36). Meekness is not weakness.

Q: Who are the best Biblical examples of meekness?

Numbers 12 - Moses the most humble man on the earth - How little he personally did to save the people. He went to God every time. When he struck a rock he got scolded. God gave him authority but what did he do say, "I said this" and "I did that." Instead He said, "Thus says the Lord" and asked God to do the works that He did. He always went to God even though God had called him to the greatest position and showed him by far the greatest miracles of the Old Testament. Paul, John the Baptist and of course Jesus Christ.

Q: How do we evidence meekness?

Again, not relying on ourselves, regarding our reputation as too high. Phil 2:1-9 Think of ourselves as lesser than others. Not false humility but real. Moses is an incredible human example, a man who, given incredible status, I've heard the phrase we are "kings kids," goes to God every time for words and actions.

Q: Inherit the earth? What does that mean?

Honestly, I struggle with what this means in this life. 2 Cor 6:1-10 finishes with the phrase of being poor and yet having everything. We have all that matters in this world, what God gives. That is the true inheritance of this life. In the life to come this is more physical. Here we understand in a more common way what Jesus meant about leaving all things in Mk 10:28-30 because in the life to come we will truly inherit a kingdom, being co-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17). We will live in the new heaven and new earth and have possessions there even position (1 Cor 6:1-3).

The blessings of God are physical, spiritual and emotional. Having what we need, being peaceful and content, and obtaining eternal life through Christ. This is the best inheritance.