

## Day 4 Good Grief

**Matthew 5:3-4 (NKJV)** Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: **3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4** **Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

In order for us to live the blessed life, we have to locate ourselves, be honest who we are, realize who God is, and then recognize our need for Him. If you are brutally honest when you discover yourself, you will find that you are absolutely bankrupt without God. You might protest and say wait a minute, I am not that bad of a person! Compared to what? We measure ourselves with others instead of measuring ourselves with the mirror of God’s Word. When you do, that’s when you realize the depth of your need for God. When you reach that point in your life, you will finally be ready to do what Jesus told us in **Matthew 5:4(NIV)** *Blessed are those **who mourn**, for they will be comforted.*

You might think of this verse in terms of mourning loss in your life, but that is not what Jesus is referring to. Does God bring comfort to those who mourn? The answer is, yes. But this mourning is directly related to the recognition of our own spiritual poverty. You look at yourself compared to this amazing God and His Word, and you look at your own life and you cry out to Him and say God, I don’t measure up, my life is filled with broken pieces, broken promises, broken vows, broken dreams, and broken hopes. Why is this so important? **Without you mourning over your own brokenness, there will never be true change in your life.** You have to acknowledge that your life without God is broken, and that you by yourself cannot fix it. The thing that brokenness does for you and me, is it stops us in our tracks.

Pain in your life and mine is an indicator of brokenness. Until you admit your own brokenness and confess your need for help, God cannot help you. Where do you find God’s grace and God’s power? You find Him when you are willing to fess up to your sin. When you are broken over your own brokenness! When you realize that your sin has separated you from God and has produced nothing of worth in your life, except pain and loss. You mourn, because you realize your spiritual poverty has separated you from your Creator. You mourn, because sin hurts you and others. You mourn, because within yourself there are no answers. You mourn, because your sin placed Jesus on the cross! You mourn, because you know that without God you are lost.

Until you see yourself for who you really are, you will never be able to live the blessed life that Jesus offers. Paul describes this kind of brokenness in **2 Corinthians 7:9 (NLT)** *Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but **because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have**, so you were not harmed by us in any way.*

Don’t miss the statement Paul makes; **“the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have.”** What sorrow does God want us to have? The sorrow that leads to a changed life! This is not just simply shedding a sad tear. This is a spiritual weeping over our bankrupt state. This is a weeping over all and any sin in our lives. This is admitting that I have sinned and fall short of God’s standard. I weep, because I am not going to cover up my sin, hide my sin, deny my sin or call my sin my identity. I weep, because I refuse to minimize my sin by saying, it’s a mistake, a mishap, a fault, or it’s not that big of a deal. I weep, because I am a sinful person in need of a Savior! The Bible is very clear, that when we admit our need for God and recognize our sin, God steps in. When we realize that what we’ve done is wrong, and we mourn over our brokenness, God steps in and leads us out of that brokenness.

If your heart has never been grieved by your sin, you might lack a revelation of your spiritual poverty. Comfort from the Father only flows to those who are grieved by their sin. James calls this a deep grief, a grief that causes tears to flow and hearts to be contrite. **“Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief” (James 4:8b-9a NLT).**

None of us like grief, but all of us need to grieve. Good grief enables us to start over. Good grief means I get a fresh start. **But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over. (Jeremiah 18:4 NLT)** Good grief means I am being made new. Good grief means that my yesterday is covered by His mercy, my today is empowered by His grace and that my tomorrow is filled with His comfort.

Let the Potter turn your mourning into dancing...

#### **Reflection and Prayer:**

- **Pray this: Father, here I am in Your Holy presence. My sole desire is to live the blessed life that Jesus promised I could live. I am not here to ask You for anything or even on behalf of anyone. I am here because I have sinned, and I need to change. Your Words have pierced my soul, convicted my heart and opened my eyes to my own sin. I don't want to minimize, coddle or justify any wrong that I have done. I simply want to say, I am sorry! Forgive me and help me to daily walk in the freedom that Jesus purchased for me at Calvary. I cling only to the Cross of Christ. I lean completely on Your mercy. Reveal any wicked way in me, and reshape me into what You want me to be! Speak Father, I need Your voice so that I may follow You, my Good Shepherd. In Jesus Name...**
- **Take a moment and sit, quiet and still in His presence.**
- **Don't say anything just simply listen.**
- **Whatever the Father tells you, write it down and obey His instruction.**