**The Sermon on the Mount**

***Blessed are those who mourn*; Matthew 5:4**

**Background**

1. The Sermon on the Mount and Repentance
   * “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:17
   * “Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.” Matthew 4:23
2. Meaning of Beatitudes: Latin *beatus* meaning “happiness” or “blessedness”
3. Structure of the Beatitudes

**Exposition of Matthew 5:4**

1. Blessed: Happiness or inward joy that comes from God
2. Those who mourn
   * Mourning – Brokenness, Devastation, Heartbreak
     + Mourning over spiritual poverty (beggar in India and in Mexico)
     + Mourning over the broken relationships due to our spiritual poverty
     + Mourning over the physical ramifications due to our spiritual poverty
3. They shall be comforted

**The Sermon on the Mount**

***Blessed are those who mourn*; Matthew 5:4**

**I. New Series Briefly Introduced (Header slide)**

* **Background**
* The Sermon on the Mount and Repentance
  + “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:17 **(Slide 2)**
  + “Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.” Matthew 4:23 **(Slide 3)**
  + The first beatitude, Matthew 5:3 **(Slide 4)**
* Structure of the Beatitudes
  + The first five pronouncements **(Slide 5)**
  + The next four pronouncements **(Slide 6)**
  + Progression of thought as we move through the beatitudes
  + The first five blessings, causal statements as to why the condition that seems to be trouble is a blessing **(Slide 7)**
  + The next four blessings or causal statements **(Slide 8)**

**II. Scripture Reading and Prayer**

* We will read all twelve of these verses every week
* Goal is for us to become extremely familiar with these verses
* **Read Matthew 5:3-12 (slides)**

**III. Exposition of Matthew 5:4 – “Blessed are those who mourn” (Header slide)**

* Question: Isn’t Christianity just a crutch?
* Answer: Yes and what is the problem with that
* If a person has a broken leg, do we speak in derogatory terms that they need crutches
* This is a strange criticism because the individual leveling such a charge assumes that Christians will be troubled by the accusation
* The beatitudes present a blessed life for those who are relying completely on God and following God in every aspect of their life
* In other words, God is the crutch for their life that keeps them standing, God’s Word and His promises keeps the individual upright
* Jesus says it this way, the wise man built his house on the rock
* We come now to the second beatitude
* Meaning of Beatitudes: Latin *beatus* meaning “happiness” or “blessedness”
* **Read Matthew 5:4 (Slide 2)** 
  + **Blessed**
    - Blessed: Happiness or inward joy that comes from God
    - Jesus Christ truly wants you to be happy and He gives you the keys to this happiness, He gives us the keys to everlasting joy – a lasting happiness
    - Trying to achieve happiness through other means will fail miserably
    - Trying to make yourself happy apart from these divine principles will fail
  + **Those who mourn**
  + Too many illustrations for my liking this week
  + This week I have stood beside several individuals who were mourning for sins devastation in the physical health of their loved ones
  + I have been with much illness, death and weeping this week
  + I have spent countless hours beside hospital beds and at funeral homes
  + Yesterday Kim said to me that she was sorry for the difficult week
  + I told her that I was glad in some ways because I am preaching on something that goes beyond some theoretical application
  + Imagine my trepidation with the last beatitude in a few weeks, pronouncing a blessing on those of you who are persecuted for My name’s sake
  + Mourning – Brokenness, Devastation, Heartbreak
    - What type of mourning receives this blessing?
    - Any kind of tears? There are examples of tears that receive rebukes in Scripture
    - Esau and King David both wept in inappropriate or ineffective ways
    - How about from the ministry and life of Christ? Can we determine the type of weeping that might justify blessing
    - **Read Luke 7:37-38 (Slide 3)**
    - Mourning over spiritual poverty
    - **Read Luke 18:13-14 (Slide 4)**
    - Mourning over spiritual poverty
    - How about the times Jesus wept?
    - **Read Matthew 26:38-39 (Slide 5)**
    - Mourning over the broken relationships due to our spiritual poverty
    - **Read Luke 19:41-42 (Slide 6)**
    - Mourning over the rejection of God’s plan in our lives and the lives of others due to our spiritual poverty
    - **Read John 11:33-35 (Slide 7)**
    - Mourning over the emotional and physical ramifications due to the impact of our spiritual poverty
  + This verse says that those who mourn at to be happy or to be filled with joy
  + Why? Because of what they know about the outcome
  + **They shall be comforted**
    - **Read Matthew 5:4 (Slide 8)**
    - What we know drives how we feel and not the other way around
    - We regulate our emotions, our feelings, our hurts and our pains by what we know – we know that God will set all these things right, we know that He will bring comfort where there is pain
    - **Read Revelation 21:4 (Slide 9)**
    - Jesus will make all things right, He will remove the sorrow for all eternity, He will bring comfort to us forever

**IV. Closing – Read Matthew 5:4 (Slide 10)**

* How do I become a proper mourner?
* A soft heart because of my sin
* A soft heart because of the devastation in others
* Ultimately, having my heart broken by the things that break the heart of God