



Good Hope Baptist Church

Pastor Josh Franklin

The Beautiful Attitudes pt. 2– From Moaning to Mourning

Matthew 5:4, “Blessed [approved of God] are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Adrian Rogers said, “Jesus is not talking about the moaners. He's talking about the mourners. He's not talking about the miserable, the melancholy, the sad sacks, the cry-babies of this world. They are drinking constantly from the intoxicating cup of self-pity. They're favorite hymn is ‘Nobody knows the trouble I've seen,’ and the only pleasure they get in life is singing it to you.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes: “Let us, then, try to define this man who mourns. What sort of man is he? He is a sorrowful man, but he is not morose. He is a sorrowful man, but he is not a miserable man. He is a serious man, but he is not a solemn man. He is a sober-minded man, but he is not a sullen man. He is a grave man, but he is never cold. There is with his gravity a warmth and attraction.” [pg. 50, Sermon on the Mount]

“Blessed” also means “approved of God”.

The church no longer weeps over sin for two reasons:

- 1) Some fear they will be seen as overly religious.** They will be seen as prudish. They do not want to leave the idea that to be religious is to be miserable. However, it has gone to the other extreme. They have been overly jovial about sin. Why? To attract people, we have gone from a false Puritanism to a David Letterman or Jay Leno show Christianity. The pastor has to tell jokes. We never talk about sin, only referring to it as the “fun stuff”.
- 2) Mainly though, is because we have a low view of sin.** We don't take sin seriously in our lives – our own sins, the sins of others, the sin of our nation. Jesus would never recommend that we be morbid, gloomy or a complainer. What he is saying is that people are approved of God when they have a godly sorrow for their sins and the sins of others.”

Warren Wiersbe stated, “If you want to know a person's character, find out what makes him laugh and what makes him weep. This test is not infallible, because we all have our difficult days; but generally speaking it is true. It always amazes me when people laugh at a drunk or at a comedian impersonating a drunk. I see nothing funny in drunkenness or in drunken behavior. As a pastor, I have seen too much of the tragedy of drink to be entertained by a drunk.” [Living the Beattitudes, pg. 47]

Adrian Rogers has said, “We've done all that we can do to keep ourselves from feeling any pain. We have our psychologists who will numb our neurosis. We have our counselors who will absolve us of all guilt. We have our doctors to sedate our pain. We have our insurance agents to take away our worries. And even at death we have the mortuary to somehow try to beautify death for us. And then on top of that we want to go from one entertainment to another. One amusement to another. And I've told you before that the word amuse means

not to think. To muse means to think. A museum is a place you go to think, to observe. Amuse means not to think. We go from one amusement to another amusement.”

Three Types of Sorrow in Life:

- 1) Natural Sorrow** – Such sorrow comes to everybody sooner or later. Example: A close friend dies.
- 2) Worldly Sorrow** – Mentioned in 2 Corinthians 7:10. This is totally selfish sin. You have remorse, but not because you have sinned against a Holy God. You are sorry because you have gotten caught and you have to pay a price. Example: Judas in Matthew 27:3

2 Corinthians 7:10 says, “...the sorrow of the world produces death,” not life or salvation. This sort of sorrow regrets getting caught, but it does not worry or hate the sin against a holy God. The thief is sorry that he was caught, but he is not sorry that he stole and sinned against a holy God. The adulterer is sorry that his wife caught him, but he is not sorry that he offended a holy God, and broke the covenant he made with his wife. The drunkard is sorry that he has cirrhosis of the liver, but is not sorry that he has wasted his life through alcohol. I read where a man in Georgia used to get drunk, go home and drive his frail little wife and helpless children out of the house. On one occasion he became so boisterous that the neighbors called the officers, and the man was taken to jail and locked up. A pastor went to see him while he was in jail. He was very sorry for what he had done. He sat and wept as if his heart would break. Finally, he looked up and said, “What will people say about me when this becomes public? It will ruin me.” He was sorry, not because he had been a brute and driven his wife and children from the home, and not because he had sinned against God, but because his sin was about to be made public.ⁱ Though many people have this sort of sorrow, this is not biblical repentance.

- 3) Godly Sorrow** – This is deep sorrow, broken heartedness, because you have sinned and broken the heart of God and brought disaster upon yourself. Illustration: the Prodigal Son **[Luke 15:18-20]**

R.T. Kendall writes, “The mourning that is blessed is mourning that enables you to see sin you had not seen in yourself before. It is when you can fully agree with the words of the old spiritual: “It’s not my brother nor my sister but it’s me, O Lord, Standing in the need of prayer. Not the preacher nor the deacon but it’s me, O Lord, Standing in the need of prayer.” [Sermon on the Mount, pg. 31]

THERE IS A PROGRESSION OF SORROW IF IT IS REALLY GODLY SORROW:

1. There must be **CONVICTION** of sin by the Holy Spirit – John 16:8
2. Conviction will lead to **CONTRITION** – sincere sorrow.
3. Contrition will lead to honest **CONFESSION** of sin. There can be no true confession until there is Holy Spirit conviction and contrition.
4. **CONFESSION** will lead to **CONVERSION** [for the sinner] or **CHANGE** [for the believer].
5. Finally Conversion will lead to **COMFORT**.

Experience of Charles Colson: “that night when I... sat alone in my car, my own sin – not just dirty politics, but the hatred and evil so deep within me – was thrust before my eyes, forcefully and painfully. For the first time in my life, I felt unclean, and worst of all, I could not escape. In those moments of clarity I found myself driven irresistibly into the arms of the living God.” [Quoted in Sermon on the Mount, Hughes, 31]

JESUS CALLS THE HOLY SPIRIT THE GREAT COMFORTER or one who comes alongside us to give us strength, courage and power for living (John 14:16).

Matthew 5:4b, “...for God will comfort them [the passive verb implies God as subject].” *(Expanded Bible)*

1. The Holy Spirit comforts us when we are saved.

2. The Holy Spirit comforts us when He counsels us.
3. The Holy Spirit comforts us by explaining our troubles.
4. The Holy Spirit comforts in time of sickness and operation.
5. The Holy Spirit comforts in time of death.

If you would be approved of God, among other things, you must learn to weep with a godly sorrow over your own sins, over the sins of others and the sins of our nation. America sits before the sitcoms, etc. and laughs at homosexuality, dirty jokes, and watches all forms of perversion on their televisions while the world laughs its way to hell. May I urge you to pray that you will be so sensitive to the tragedy of sin in your life and in the lives of others, that you will learn to weep not just occasionally but as a lifestyle (the word "mourn" is in the present tense)

Extra Teaching Helps

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Luke 22:62 (NKJV) ⁶² So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

2 Corinthians 6:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; **He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,** To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*;

² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; **To comfort all who mourn,**

³ To console those who mourn in Zion, **To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;** That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Psalms 30:5 (NKJV) ⁵ For His anger *is but for a moment*, His favor *is for life*; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy *comes* in the morning.

Now, what is godly sorrow? It is not mere regret. Many of us have done things that we regret. And we're sorry. I mean, when I was a child I did many things I regretted when my dad found out about it. We had a pump room. He took me out there, and he never whipped me on an empty stomach. Always turned me over and that's the way he whipped me. I regretted it. Sorrowfully regretted it. But I could tell that that's not godly sorrow. Not regret. Not remorse.

Now regret is primarily in the mind. Remorse goes past the mind to the heart. But that, my dear friend, is not godly sorrow. Remorse. As a matter of fact, remorse without repentance can be a dangerous thing. Regret is primarily in the mind. Remorse is in the mind and in the heart. But remorse, my dear friend, compared to repentance, remorse is a dead end street. Repentance is a highway. Remorse looks at the sin and its consequences. Repentance looks beyond the sin to Calvary.

A person filled with remorse is one who loves his sin and hates himself at the same time. Do you ever see anyone like that? He loves his sin, but he hates himself because he can't quite. That's remorse. A person who has repented is a person who hates his sin because he loves his Savior. That's the difference. You all have many people that waltz down our churches with regret, and others have come with remorse. But oh thank God for those who have come with repentance.

Romans 7:15-25 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good.

¹⁷ But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

¹⁹ For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice.

²⁰ Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

²⁴ **O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

²⁵ **I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

From Hughes' "Sermon on the Mount", pg. 29:

Dr. Thomas F. Roesner compared the equally reprehensible sins of Congressmen Daniel Crane and Gerald Studds. Both had been censured by the House of Representatives – Crane for having sexual relations with a 17 yr old female page and Studds for having relations with a 17 yr old male page. Roesner observed:

"Being censured is the only thing Crane and Studds have in common. The nation got a glimmer of their philosophical differences when Crane admitted tearfully to his district, then to the full House, that he "broke the laws of God and man," casting a vote for his own censure, facing the House as the Speaker announced the tally. Studds, in contrast, acknowledged he was gay in a dramatic speech to the House, then defended the relationship with the page as "mutual and voluntary." He noted that he had abided by the age of consent, and said the relationship didn't warrant the "attention or action" of the House. Studds voted "present" on the censure and heard the verdict from the Speaker with his back to the House... [Crane's] philosophy teaches that there is one things worse than sin. That is denial of sin, which makes forgiveness impossible."

Without poverty of spirit no one enters the kingdom of God. Likewise, without its emotional counterpart – grief over sin – no one receives the comfort of forgiveness and salvation.

ⁱ Adapted from J. Clyde Turner, *Soul-Winning Doctrines* (Nashville, Tenn.: Sunday School Board, 1943), 42-43.