



Happy are
the Sad

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

January 8, 2017

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying . . . Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. –

Matthew 5:1-4

The Paradox of the Ministry of Mourning

God is not calling us to the ministry of long faces but to press in and on, especially when it is hard.

Four Arenas where this Beatitude can be lived out . . .

- Lament the _____ of life
- Sorrow over your _____
- Cry over the _____ of others
- Weep over our _____

The Ministry of Divine Comfort

Key Truths about God and Those who Suffer . . .

1. God himself draws near to those _____.
2. God uses suffering to _____.
3. We _____ in hard times than we do in good times.
4. Our sufferings qualify us to _____.

The Majesty of God's Sovereignty

1. He is _____ and You _____ . . .
2. Because God is _____, we know that he has our best interests at heart.
3. Because God is _____, nothing is ever wasted in our experience.
4. Because God is _____, he will not leave you alone in your pain.

Truth for Life

For the week of January 8, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Can you remember a time when life was hard? When the difficulty caused you or those around you to suffer? Was your tendency or desire to stay or to run? Why do we tend to want to run from suffering? We tend to pursue a moment of happiness to mask the feeling of overwhelming sorrow down deep. Is that an accurate statement? Why or why not?
2. The Bible gives us windows into the lives of many people who experienced great pain, hardship, or loss. Read the following Scriptures and take a look at how each person responded to their situation. Pay attention to what they learned or taught as a result of their trials and jot down any observations.
 - Job 1:18-22
 - Job 2:7-10
 - 1 Peter 4:12-19
 - 2 Corinthians 11:16-33
3. Review the section "The Ministry of Divine Comfort." What truth stands out to you? Why? How have you seen this truth in action? Do you disagree with any of these? Why?
4. Psalm 77 is a good example of an honest prayer in the midst of a tough situation. Read this prayer in two parts. Read first vss. 1-9. What complaints did the Psalmist have? Do you hear his disappointment with God? Now read vss. 10-20. What was the Psalmist's response? What did he choose to do in regards to God?

Action Step Challenge . . .

It's imperative to be honest. God can handle your honesty, your disappointment with Him, your anger, etc. It might be helpful to use this prayer as a guide as you write out your own "psalm" about a tough season in your life or a painful situation. Honestly express your thoughts and emotions to God. Also include a list of the things God has done for you which will help you maintain your trust in Him.

Memory Verse

Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. – Matthew 5:4

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying . . . Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. –

Matthew 5:1-4

The Paradox of the Ministry of Mourning

God is not calling us to the ministry of long faces but to press in and on, especially when it is hard.

Four Arenas where this Beatitude can be lived out . . .

- Lament the **losses** of life
- Sorrow over your **sins**
- Cry over the **condition** of others
- Weep over our **world**

The Ministry of Divine Comfort

Key Truths about God and Those who Suffer . . .

1. God himself draws near to those **who hurt**.
2. God uses suffering to **draw us to himself**.
3. We **grow faster** in hard times than we do in good times.
4. Our sufferings qualify us to **minister to others**.

The Majesty of God's Sovereignty

1. He is **God** and You **are not** . . .
2. Because God is **Good**, we know that he has our best interests at heart.
3. Because God is **Wise**, nothing is ever wasted in our experience.
4. Because God is **Love**, he will not leave you alone in your pain.

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(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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