

I. Review

- A. It is important to keep in mind and understand that as we look at the Beatitudes, we are looking at a revelation of the longing and awaiting heart of our bridegroom. We are being invited into the intimacy of sharing in the longings of His heart.
 - 1. These aspects are all being given in the context of this age, awaiting the fullness of the Kingdom and therefore carry with them a very unique intimacy that can only be experienced in this age.
- B. Poor in Spirit – We covered this Beatitude in great detail in our last session. The posture and reality of poverty of spirit is the foundational aspect of entrance and experience in the Kingdom of God. With a joyful and desirous heart, Jesus chose to become fully dependent upon His Father for everything. He walked out poverty of spirit and showed us the fruit available to humanity when they fully walk in poverty of spirit.

II. Mourning for the Kingdom

“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted; Blessed are those who weep now, for you shall laugh.” (Mat. 5:4; Lk 6:21)

- A. Once we have entered into the reality of experiencing and understanding the Kingdom we are faced with an immediate dilemma. The truth becomes clear, our interior lives and the world in which we live both fall alarmingly short of the beauties of the Kingdom.
- B. Our natural reaction to the fallenness around us is to deny that it's there or to at least downplay the severity of death and sin that rules this age. As with the first beatitude, we are faced with an aspect of the blessed heart that is regarded by our culture as absolute foolishness. Society has its focus upon entertainment, pleasure, comfort, etc., reaching for anything to keep a spirit of mourning at bay. Jesus calls us not just to feel mourning for the Kingdom, but also to embrace it as a constant companion.
 - 1. The mourning spoken of here is not speaking of sorrow in the natural sense, like the sorrow we feel in the loss of a loved one. It is not sorrow that only comes in sad circumstance, but rather is an overarching, gripping ache, on the inside, that everything is not okay. It is a constant declaration in your soul that says all of the brokenness and injustice of this age is wrong in light of the Kingdom and must be made right.

- C. Encountering His Heart of Mourning – Almost all the authors of the scriptures bear witness of God’s heart of mourning. This is very significant when we consider that the bible was composed over hundreds of years.
1. There is a clear expectation in scripture - those who enter into deep relationship with God will understand His heart of mourning and in turn enter into mourning themselves. (Ps. 119:136; Jer. 9:1; Ezek. 9:4; Dan. 10:2-3; Joel 2:12, 17; Ezra 10:1; 2 Cor. 12:21; Phil. 3:18)

*The imputed spirit of mourning for the kingdom is the most basic foundation of biblical intercession. –
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- D. Our Mourning Bridegroom – Once again we look to Jesus to gain clarity on what it actually looks like to walk in a reality of mourning for the Kingdom. Jesus was not depressed nor did He have a downtrodden countenance. He was however unwavering in His desire to see the Kingdom come in its fullness. This desire manifested in the passionate declaration of His longing for it and sometimes in bitter weeping. (Mat. 23:37-39, 26:29; Lk 13:34-35, 22:15-18; 19:37-44; Jhn 11:1-44)
1. If the mourning for the Kingdom could be satisfied in this age, by revival or otherwise, then Jesus, of all people, should have never carried a heart of mourning. We often mourn over our lack of faith to see more signs and wonders. He had no lack of faith and no lack of signs and wonders, yet remained in mourning for the Kingdom to come.

- E. A very sad reality in the church today is the message of the coming Kingdom of God is viewed as controversial and lacking in relevance. Worse yet, is when it is disregarded entirely as figurative allegory. This has left the majority of believers to place their hope in this age and has robbed them of the intimacy of mourning. (Lk. 6:25; 2 Cor. 10-11; Jam. 4:1-10; Rev. 18:7)

And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. (Mat. 9:15)

III. Comforted by His Coming

- A. Those who connect to His heart of mourning will, like Him, carry it until He returns. The spirit of mourning fuels intercession and gives us the right perspective and drive for ministry. It is a significant truth that those who mourn for the return of Jesus and the coming Kingdom will only be comforted by the trumpet blast from heaven and the splitting of the sky. (Jer. 31:1-14; Is. 61:1-7, 66:10-14; Jhn. 16:20-22)