

A Tearful Start

Mt 5:4 Blessed are Those Who Mourn

Luke 6:21

Is Luke's account a commentary on Matthew's?

Matthew 5	Luke 6
:1 He ascended a mountain to talk to His disciples	:17 He descended the mountain with the 12 to address a crowd
:4 mourning [a self-contained grief] “Which takes possession of the whole being that it cannot be hid” [Trench] “manifests itself externally” [Chrysostom]	:21 weeping [cry: a more demonstrative expression of grief] Mk 16:10 both words are used of the disciples before they realized He had risen.
Comfort Ps 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”	Laughter
:4 “now” was added Later copyists reversed the order of vs. 4 & 5, placing meek next to poor in Spirit.	:21b One manuscript omits this phrase completely: Happy are those who weep now because you will laugh.

The Prologue

We mourn what is lost, what we miss having. Mourning the loss of a loved one is a well-known experience. It is sorrow of heart.

Some believe this word is “not theologically significant” [Theological Dictionary, vol vi, page 43].

Some say this verse is to be “taken eschatologically.” Yes, but not only.

But I do agree: “The reference is plainly to those who see this suffering [age] *as it is* and who are not led astray by its charms [laughing now].”

Mourn

1 Corinthians 5:2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

1 Corinthians 12:21 I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved [mourned] over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity

James 4:9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom [shame?].

Those who mourn are not professional mourners nor are they living a mournful life. They are burden bearers who know that grief must be expressed, not hidden or suppressed, who know the value of tears.

As Camp Pastor.

Acts 20:31 “So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.”

2 Corinthians 2:4 “For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.”

Prayer

The blessing is **not just eschatological** or referring to when God will wipe the tears away.

Isaiah 66:2 “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and **contrite in spirit**, and who tremble at my word.”

- The blessing of expressing God’s heart.
- Mourning in this sense is foundational to any calling.
- Without knowing the heart of God, we only know the mechanics of ministry.
- Following a divine vision is following a divine burden.

Comfort

Comfort is descriptive of the Spirit's work in this life. **John 14:16** [RSV] “And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever,”
John 15:26 Jesus taught: “he shall testify of me:”

Thayer: “In the widest sense, a **helper**, ... **assistant**; ... to **lead** us [the Apostles & us] to a deeper knowledge of gospel truth, and to give ... the divine strength needed to enable [us] to undergo trials and persecution on behalf of the kingdom.”

And intercessor, defender, or **advocate**: one who pleads man's cause before God.

Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit **helps** us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.’

The Context

“This state of mind is explained by the poverty in spirit from which it springs.” **John Peter Lange** tells us.

Lord, give us those who mourn for the lost—not just who shout praises at the thought of the final judgment. Give us hearts that cry for others, that help carry the divine burden for Your creation. Amen

Grief cannot be hid, we really mean to say, “should not be hid.” Persons who live with unresolved bitterness and those who see themselves boastfully above tears, will suppress grief to their own psychological harm. The poor in spirit know how and when to allow the tears to flow. (John 11:35) They know the value of expressed grief.

Summary

This world is a sorrowful place since Adam and Eve left Eden and it is impossible to intellectualize pain. ...nor should we. These are Christians

who know how to carry God's burden with Him,

who know how to pray,

who are at liberty to cry,

for whom praying is not a public display but at times burdens which cannot be uttered not the mechanics of chosen phrases or just rote repetition but real heart.

Their poverty of spirit is in tune with God's great heart of love.

They prioritize prayer and for whom "pray without ceasing" (**I Thessalonians 5:17**) is not a riddle but a way of life.

A Verse

Why mourn when the age of science has replaced the dark ages of ignorance? Before there was science, there was always God. Science is nothing more than the reader's manual of His creative genius. And God never proposed that science replace prayer because the reasons for prayer, for God wanting to commune with us and share His heart, remain undiscoverable by the laws of science.

The burden remains for the poor in spirit to mourn the lost of Eden until the seraphim lower their flaming swords and God once again opens the way for our return. Until then our happiness as believers will remain the benefit of a prayer life that God's burden has called us to. When this is the Divine burden that accompanies our calling:

His burden becomes thru prayer a healing stream
To cleanse our hearts of what He disapproves,
To free our faith of what things falsely seem,
To learn the special way His Spirit moves.

God always hears our agony of soul
He cares; for, broken hearts He will restore.
Our grief bears witness God will make us whole—
The language of the heart and nothing more.

This burden is not ours alone but His;
The burden of our Lord we gladly share.
Our happiness we learn most surely is
The blessedness of embracing Him in prayer.

The Link

The blessing in prayer [the benefit of mourning] is the realization that our dependence and reliance is exclusively on our Lord to respond to the needs of which He has made us aware that He would meet them in His time and way.

John 14:14 “If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” is in this context (John 14:16).