**The blessed character of the mourner – Matt. 5:4**

**Focal Truth: Believer’s mourn for their sinfulness while God comforts the mourner**

The beatitudes provide 8 qualities of blessedness & Christian character

**The poor in spirit recognize their sinfulness**

**The mourner repents of their sinfulness**

**Observations**

*Blessed are those who mourn…*

1. **What mourning does not mean?**
2. It is not sadness because of outward losses – the sorrow of the world produces death 2 Cor. 7:10
3. It is not sadness because of unfulfilled covetousness or fleshly desires

Amnon was sad because he could not defile his sister – 2 Sam. 13:2 – Amnon was so frustrated because of his sister Tamar that he made himself ill, for she was a virgin, and it seemed hard to Amnon to do anything to her.

King Ahab was sad because he could not get Naboth’s vineyard – he laid down on his bed, and turned away his face and would not eat bread – 1 Kings 21:4

1. **What does it mean to mourn?**
2. Mourn = to lament
3. Mourning is repentance for sin – 2 Cor. 7:10 – sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation
4. Gospel mourning produces godly sorrow for sin & the misery of sinfulness
5. **Repentance for our sinfulness is godly sorrow that leads to salvation**

Job 42:6 – therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes

Woe is me for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips! – Isa. 6:5

Through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men – Rom. 5:18

1. **Repentance for the misery of our sinfulness**

Rom. 7: 18 -24 - For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is in my flesh, for the willing is present in me, but the doing of good is not. For the good I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want…I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good…I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from this body of death?

**The poor in spirit recognize their condition of sinfulness & which leads to repentant mourning of sin & its misery.**

1. **Gospel mourning is continuous -** Repentance for our sin leads to putting to sin to death in our bodies

Rom. 8:13 – if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

1. **Gospel mourning is voluntary** – Luke 7 – “the woman stood weeping”

James 1:21 – putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness

Eph. 4:22 – in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self

1. **Gospel mourning is spiritual** –Ps. 51 – “my sin is ever before me”

2 Sam. 12:13 – David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord

1. **How does God comfort the Christian’s mourning?**

*They shall be comforted*

* 1. Comforted = to be consoled, encouraged & comforted
  2. God comforts as the Christian mourns – Isa. 57:18 - 19 – I will restore comfort to him and to his mourners. Creating the praise of the lips. Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near, says the Lord and I will heal him

Isa. 12:1 – then you will say on that day, I will give thanks to You, O Lord, for although you were angry with me, your anger is turned away, and you comfort me

Isa. 40:1 – Comfort, O comfort My people, says your God

Isa. 51:3 – Indeed, the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort her waste places…joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of melody

* 1. Gospel mourning leads to gospel comfort from God the Father

2 Cor. 1:3 – 4 – blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God

* 1. Gospel comfort comes through the Holy Spirit

Acts. 9:31 – so the church throughout Judea & Galilee & Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up, & going on in the fear of the Lord & in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase

The Holy Spirit’s comfort produces the fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22 -23

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self - control

* 1. Gospel comfort comes through the presence of the Lord Jesus

Matt. 28 – I am with you always

2 Cor. 1:5 – just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ

* 1. Gospel comfort comes through gospel promises

Matt. 11:28 – Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy – laden, and I will give you rest

**There is no gospel comfort without gospel sorrow**

**Only Christians mourn over their sin & sinfulness**

***Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!***