



**Part 22: Blessed are the Mourners and the Meek**  
Matthew 5:1-12

**I. What are the Beatitudes?**

- Further expressions of the gospel of the Kingdom (Isaiah 61; Luke 4:14-21; Matthew 4:17, 23).
- Jesus is both announcing good news to the socially powerless, and he is expressing a Way of living that embodies the Kingdom.

“It is a passage of celebration because God is acting graciously to deliver us from our poverty and captivity into God’s reign of deliverance, justice, and joy...Therefore, each beatitude begins and ends with joy, the happiness, the blessedness of the good news of participation in God’s gracious deliverance. The beatitudes say what Isaiah 35:3-4 says: ‘Strengthen the tired hands and revive the stumbling knees. Say to the despairing hearts: Be of good cheer. Do not be afraid. See, your God is coming.’” – Glen Stassen, *Living the Sermon on the Mount*, 42-43.

*Congratulations! Be joyful! The grace of the King rests upon you, and you belong to Him forever. You, who least expected it, are now in the beautiful Kingdom, and your life is forever changed.*

**II. Blessed are the mourners**

- A. Those who are mourning  
Mourning = *penthountes* = being deeply saddened and concerned to the point of action.

- Those grieving the reality of a world groaning under Satan, sin, and death.
- Especially the powerless, the ostracized, and the forgotten.
- Those grieving over their own sin with a Godly sorry that leads to repentance.

In some ways, Jesus is saying something very similar to the first Beatitude. Jesus is both announcing good news to the socially powerless, and he is expressing a Way of living that embodies the Kingdom.

#### B. Mourning leads to action

“Christians who pray for God’s reign to come are all the more aware that what is happening in themselves and their society is far from God’s reign. Their prayer life compares God’s compassion for all people with the suffering, violence, injustice, and lack of caring that hurt people; they are realists as to the causes of the wrong. They truly want to end their sinning and serve God. They want to share in a community that experiences the mustard seeds of the kingdom, the small daily breakthroughs of God’s reign.” – Glen Stassen, *Living the Sermon on the Mount*

*Congratulations! Joyful are those deeply saddened to the point of action, for they will be comforted.*

### III. Blessed are the meek

#### A. The meek

Meek = *praeis* = humbly surrendered to God, especially the socially and economically poor (like Hebrew *anawim* and Greek *ptochos* from the first Beatitude).

“[Meek (*praeis*)] is used in particular to describe two persons: Moses (Num. 12:3) and Jesus (Matt. 11:29). One of them defied the might of Egypt and the other couldn’t be cowed by a powerful Roman official...Both of them seemed absolutely fearless in the face of men, and completely surrendered to the will of God...People may be [tamed] to the extent that they have surrendered their wills to God and learned to do his bidding...They surrender their will to God so completely that God’s will becomes their will...They become God’s ‘workhorses’ on earth.” – Clarence Jordan, as quoted by Glen Stassen, *Living the Sermon on the Mount*

#### B. Jesus is quoting Psalm37:11

David is wrestling with the fact that the unrighteous appear to be succeeding while the righteous are suffering. But the “meek” are promised victory in God’s just future.

“They are strong because they know themselves in God’s arms; they are wise because they look at the world through God’s eyes; they stand firm because they are anchored in the eternal God.” – Darrell Johnson, *The Beatitudes*

*Congratulations! Joyful are those whose wills are fully surrendered to God, for they will inherit the earth.*

#### **IV. Conclusion**

*The gospel is the good news that God has kept His promises to Israel to rescue and renew His groaning creation from Satan, sin, and death through King Jesus (his life, death, resurrection, and ascension). Life in God’s beautiful Kingdom is available now and forever to all who entrust themselves to King Jesus and follow him as Lord.*

*Congratulations! Be joyful! The grace of the King rests upon you, and you belong to Him forever. You, who least expected it, are now in the beautiful Kingdom, and your life is forever changed.*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What has been your understanding of the Sermon on the Mount in general and the Beatitudes specifically?
2. Doug has said these Beatitudes are further expressions of the gospel of the Kingdom, and he offered a general translation for the Beatitudes. What do you think of this? How does this help or challenge your previous understanding of the Beatitudes?
3. How does the teaching on “mourners” help?
4. How does the teaching on “meek” help?
5. Is there anything you think Jesus may be inviting you to consider in light of these Beatitudes?