

Good Grief!

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”¹

What is mourning?

Mourning is an emotional response

Appropriate mourning

- Genesis 23:2 – Abraham mourned death of Sarah
- John 11:35 – Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus
- Psalm 42:1-3 – loneliness for God
- Acts 20:31 – concern for welfare of Ephesian believers

Inappropriate mourning

- 2 Samuel 13:2; 1 Kings 21:4-5 - Sorrow over frustrated evil plans
- 2 Samuel 18:33-19:4 - misplaced priorities
- Stuck and can't move on

What should we mourn?

Matthew 5:3-4 must be understood in the context of Luke 4:16-19; Isaiah 61:1-3 & 40:1-2

Personal sin (2 Corinthians 7:10)

Corporate sin (1 Corinthians 5:1-2)

National sin (Matthew 23:37)

How is mourning beneficial?

Forgiveness (Psalm 32:3-5; 1 John 1:9)

Holy Spirit

Salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10)

How should we mourn?

Eliminate hindrances

Study God's word (Psalm 119:136)

Pray

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996, c1984