

The background is a dark teal color with a pattern of small, light teal dots. There are also several larger, darker teal circles of varying sizes scattered across the background. In the top right corner, there is a solid red rectangle.

# Best Sermon Ever: Those Who Mourn

09/21/2025 – MATTHEW 5:4

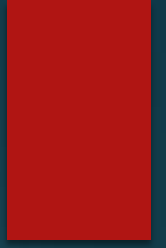
EMMANUEL CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH







# Three Questions



- ▶ Why would people be in mourning?
- ▶ How is mourning relevant to the kingdom of God?
- ▶ What is the blessing for those who mourn?



The background of the image is a misty, sepia-toned landscape. In the foreground, a wire fence with wooden posts runs across the bottom. Behind the fence, several bare, leafless trees stand against a hazy sky. A bright, glowing light source, likely the sun, is visible in the upper right corner, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this scene.

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

**Matthew 5:4**

# Why Would People Be In Mourning?



# Ninevah Mourns

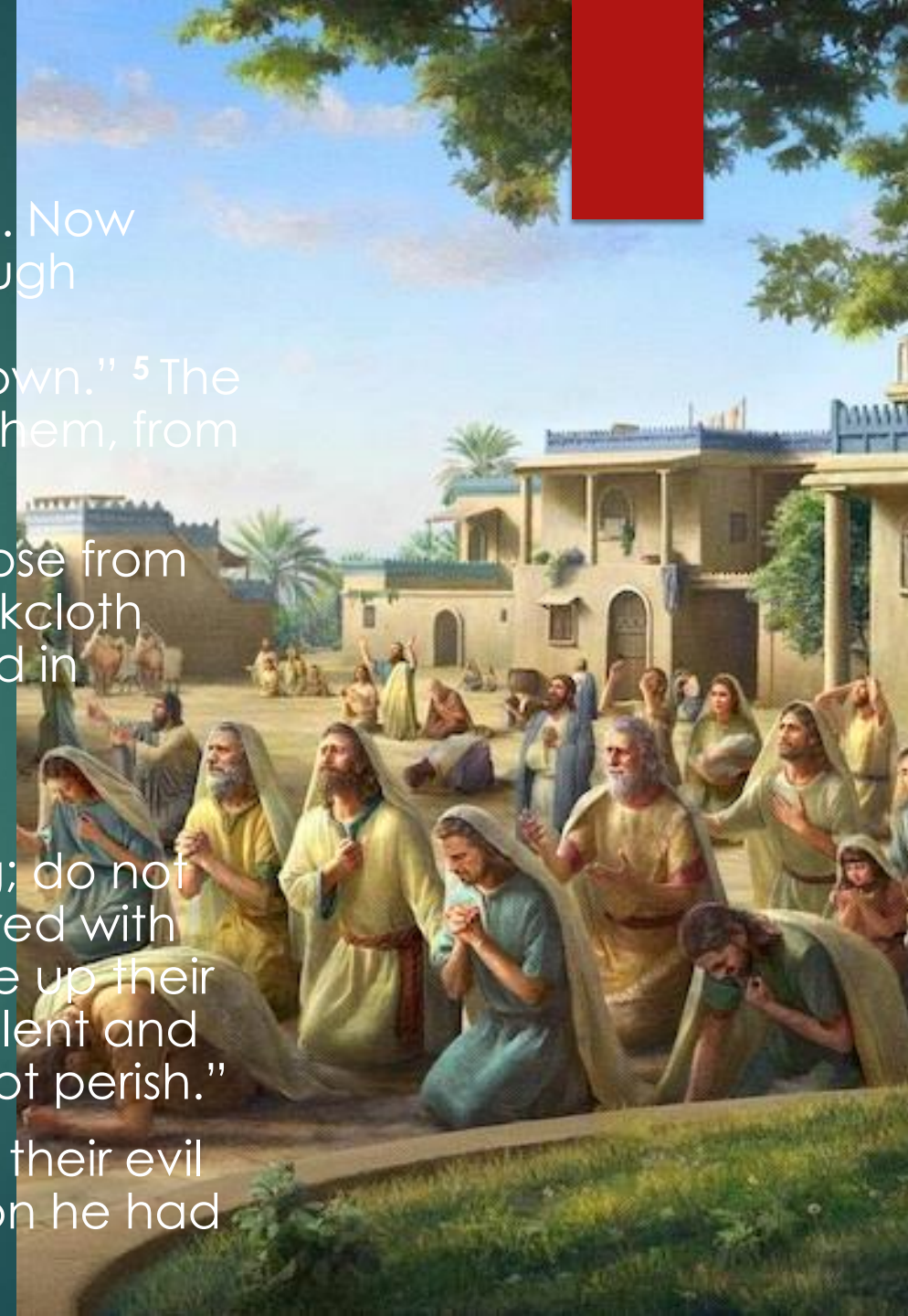
<sup>3</sup> Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup> Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." <sup>5</sup> The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup> When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. <sup>7</sup> This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. <sup>8</sup> But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.



# Tax Collector Mourns


<sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

<sup>13</sup> “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

<sup>14</sup> “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”







# How Is Mourning Relevant to The Kingdom of God

# The Beatitudes

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.



Poor in Spirit



Those Who Mourn

Change Mind



Change Heart

Confession



Contrition

Acknowledgement



Repentance

# 2 Corinthians 7

9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 11 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.



Worldly Sorrow



Self-Centered



Godly Sorrow



God-Centered



Worldly sorrow hates the consequences of your sin. Godly repentance hates the sin itself (see 2 Corinthians 7:9-11).

Worldly sorrow grieves how sin makes you feel. Godly repentance grieves how your sin makes God and others feel (see Psalm 51:4).

Worldly sorrow hides sin until you get caught. Godly repentance confesses sin before you get caught (see Proverbs 28:13).

Worldly sorrow makes no plans to change. Godly repentance actively and practically wages war against sin (see Acts 26:20).

Worldly sorrow leads you to commit the same sin over and over again. Godly repentance leads you to sin less over time (see 1 John 3:9).

- Jordan Raynor





# How are the Mourners Blessed?

# God Comforts

## Isaiah 66:2

2 Has not my hand made all these things,  
and so they came into being?”  
declares the Lord.

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

## Psalms 34:15-22

15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,  
and his ears are attentive to their cry;

16 but the face of the LORD is against those  
who do evil,  
to blot out their name from the earth.

17 The righteous cry out, and  
the LORD hears them;  
he delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed in  
spirit.

19 The righteous person may have many  
troubles,  
but the LORD delivers him from them all;

20 he protects all his bones,  
not one of them will be broken.

21 Evil will slay the wicked;  
the foes of the righteous will be  
condemned.

22 The LORD will rescue his servants;  
no one who takes refuge in him will be  
condemned.



# Comforting Words

## Romans 8

1 Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

## 1 John 3

20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that **God is greater than our hearts**, and he knows everything.

## Romans 8:34-35a

34 **Who then is the one who condemns? No one.** Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**

# God's Comfort In Action

## Romans 7

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...



# CONCLUSION



# Man of Sorrow

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4 Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

# Benediction



24 “The Lord bless you and keep you;  
25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be  
gracious to you;  
26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give  
you peace.”