

## Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

by Hendrik Joubert

When Jesus says "**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted,**" is He saying that every single person who is saddened to the point of weeping will be comforted? When we quickly answer "Yes," it is encouraging to see the positive attitude towards our fellow man; unless we are saying so merely in an attempt to subjectively claim the blessing – *If everyone is included, I will be there also...*

Unfortunately the reason very often is quite selfish; we usurp blessings while ignoring the conditions announced by the Lord. (**Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Matthew 7:21-23**) Many do this in the name of grace – if there are conditions attached, forgiveness is **not** considered to be by grace? (**Luke 13:1-9; Titus 2:11**) This attitude will cause many to weep without any hope of comfort: "**So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous,<sup>50</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**" (**Matthew 13:49-50**)

*I certainly am not wicked!* If I am not wicked, I must be good? When **someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"<sup>17</sup> And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."** (**Matthew 19:16-17**)

The general apathy in the world today results from the attitude that *I am not bad enough to go to hell* rather than accepting the Lord's description of humanity. **...it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;<sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;<sup>12</sup> ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."<sup>13</sup> "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";<sup>14</sup> "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";<sup>15</sup> "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,<sup>16</sup> DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,<sup>17</sup> AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."<sup>18</sup> "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."** (**Romans 3:10-18**)

This is not a politically correct view of humankind and does nothing to boost self-esteem – that is if we are the *architects* of that sense of self-worth instead of humbling ourselves **in the presence of the Lord**, so that **He will exalt you.** (**James 4:10**) How many among us can unequivocally say that we have never thought of ourselves as having a special relationship with God in a way which elevate us above our peers – even if just for a private moment. Some even declare themselves anointed of God while others suggest that God speaks to them personally even though that implies that God contradict what He revealed in the Scriptures. Those who point this out are considered to deny the work of the Holy Spirit of God. **And these things, brothers, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that you might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, so that no one of you may be puffed up against one another.** (**1Corinthians 4:6**)

We incriminate ourselves to a limited degree, short of actually accepting the Lord's accusation to become overwhelmed by our sinfulness to the point of **mourning**, as God demands: **Cleanse your**

**hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. (James 4:8-9)**

Sinners engage in religious activities rather superficially while reducing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the selfless act of the Son of the Living God, and ignore man's obligation described in the new covenant – the fact that the gospel is to be obeyed is dismissed as *works*. However; **If it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1Peter 4:17)**

It is necessary for us to realize (confess) our sinfulness to the point that our **laughter be turned into mourning and our joy to gloom** so we may **Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. (James 4:9-10) For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. (2Corinthians 7:10)**

Not everyone will be comforted; only those who are moved to repentance by a godly sorrow. This deep realization of our sinfulness requires being poor in spirit so we will see ourselves as the Lord sees us. Then we may be truly lifted up by the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ...**so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. (1Thessalonians 2:12)**