



Those Who Mourn

THE BEATITUDES

SESSION 3

NEXT WEEK!

- No Monday Night Session
- (October 13)
- Tuesday Morning Session will meet, October 14: 10:30 a.m.

Your God Is Too Small

- Most People Think:
 - Happy are the hard-boiled: for they never let life hurt them.
- But Jesus said:
 - Happy are those who bear their share of the world's pain:
 - in the long run they will know more happiness than those who avoid it.

Those Who Mourn?

- The meaning of this Beatitude depends on what these blessed people are mourning about . . .
- Mourning for their loved ones?
- Israel's condition?
- The lack of peace, love, and mercy?
- Injustice and Oppression?
- Their own sins?

Mourning

- The strongest word in the Greek language that has to do with sorrow and grief
- The kind of grief that takes hold of a person in such a way that it cannot be hid or contained
- Grief like a river that bursts its banks

What Does it Mean?

- Blessed is the one who has endured the bitterest sorrow life can bring
- Proverb: All sunshine makes a desert
- When sorrow comes we are driven to the deeper things in life, and if engaged correctly, we emerge stronger
- We are made stronger when we mourn what we have lost and look to God for grace and strength

Dear Miss Jessie



The Sorrow & Suffering of the World

- It is those who have taken to heart the pain and the suffering of the world, who most often do something about it.
- Dr. Bob Pierce, Korean War, moved by the children made orphans, wrote in his Bible
- “Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.”
- Founded “World Vision.”

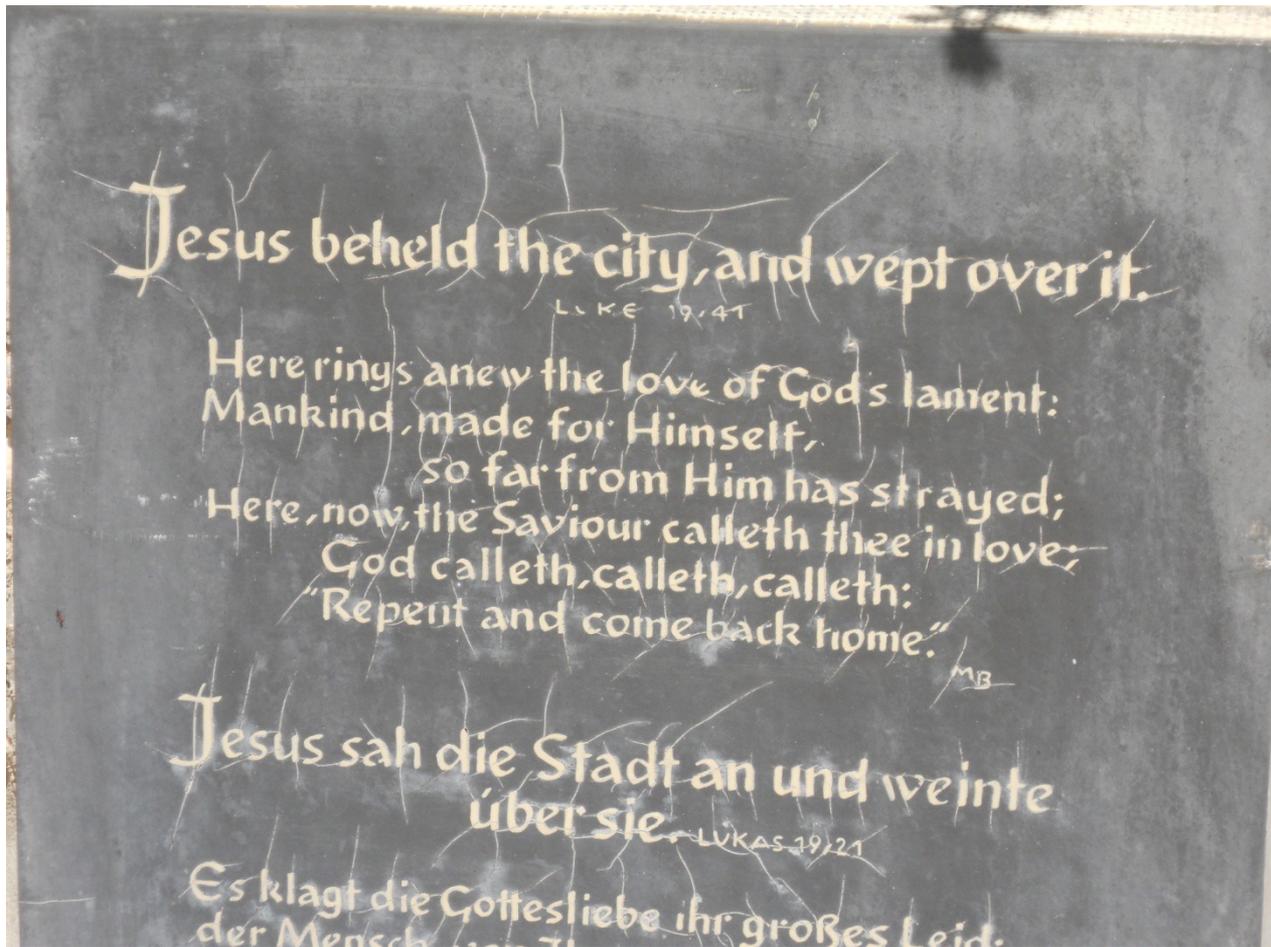
William Booth

- Left the traditional pulpit of London to preach to the homeless, the hungry, the destitute, the poor.
- Founded the Salvation Army
- Clarence Jordan and Millard Fuller
- Habitat for Humanity
- "Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God"

Sorry For His Own Sin

- Blessed is the one who is desperately sorry for his own sin and his own unworthiness.
- When we see ourselves as we truly are—and don't like what we see.
- The way to the joy of forgiveness is through the desperate sorrow of the broken heart.

Jesus Wept







THE SANCTUARY OF THE

DOMINUS FLEVIT



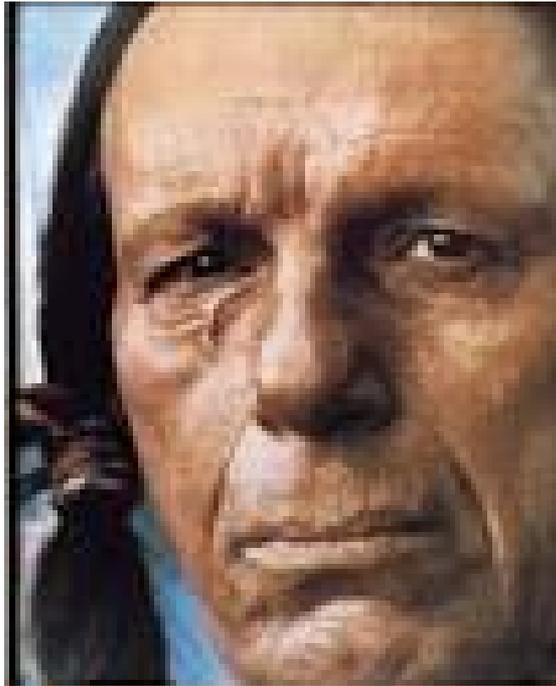
Why Did Jesus Weep Over Jerusalem

- ³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
³⁸ See, your house is left to you, desolate
- Matthew 23: 37-38

Dr Long

- The kind of mourning referred to here is not so much mere sadness or weeping but prayers of lament over the hurt in the world. This mourning grows out of an awareness of the difference between the world as it is and the world as God wills it to be.

Remember Iron Eyes Cody?





Henri Nouwen

- When I consider the immense waywardness of God's children, our lust, our greed, our violence, our anger, our resentments, and when I look at them through the eyes of God's heart, I cannot but weep and cry out in grief."

Jesus Wept

- John, Chapter 11
- His friend, Lazarus, was dead
- "There is no shorter verse in the Bible, nor is there a larger text" John Donne
- Why did he weep?
- He was fully man

Old Testament Perspective

- By the rivers of Babylon—
there we sat down and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.
² On the willows there
we hung up our harps.
³ For there our captors
asked us for songs,
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

Isaiah 61

- The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the
oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

Isaiah 61

- to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

Lessons

- The mourners are those who grieve over Israel's exile
- And their own
- They long for Israel's return
- For the Temple to be restored
- And for God's favor to return to Israel

How Does God Comfort Them?

- Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A Voice Cries in the Wilderness!

“Prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Babylonian Empire (Late 7th - Early 6th Centuries B.C.E.)



Shall Be Comforted

- Passive Form
- Future Tense
- In Rabbinic circles the Messiah was known as the *Menachem*
- "The Comforter"

God's Anointed

- Isaiah 45: 1 "Thus says the Lord to his anointed . . .
- To Cyrus
- Isaiah 44: 28 "He (Cyrus) is my shepherd, and he will fulfill my purpose; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the Temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

Cyrus the Great



Shall Be Comforted

- And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.
4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Shall Be Comforted

- I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us
- We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved.

Shall Be Comforted

- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[i] have been called according to his purpose
- What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Shall Be Comforted

- ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Christ's Tears

- He wept as he gazed over Jerusalem, not for anything that he had done or failed to do, but for our sins.
- "Would that today you knew the things that make for peace!"

God Grant Us the Gift of Tears

- For those whom we miss;
- For our sins;
- For the sins of others;
- For the violence we do to each other and in the world;
- For the pain and suffering in this world

The Boy

