

Day 7

Mourning to Dancing

Matthew 5:1-12(NKJV) *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

It is a profound truth to know that God wants us to live a happy, blessed life. Prayerfully by now the Holy Spirit has bulldozed, in love, our preconceived ideas of what a blessed life looks like. A blessed life is not a hashtag selfie from some exotic location. It is not moving into a multi-million-dollar mansion in an exclusive neighborhood. It is not having a strong shoe-game (whatever that means). I just heard that from some young people. It is not attending some gala or event for the privileged and the elect. It is not hitting a million followers on YouTube. You get the point. These things could be blessings for us and our families, but they are not what Jesus said, is the blessed life.

You could be financially broke and be blessed. If no one ever invited you to a fancy event, you can still be blessed. You could live in the worst neighborhood in the smallest house and be blessed. You could only have one pair of shoes, with no game, and be blessed. According to Jesus, blessedness is a complete inside job. It is a renovation of a heart that tends to wander after things to satisfy its longing instead of the Creator who created it. A true blessed life from God's perspective, is living with the true knowledge of who you are and who God is.

You are small, He is big. You have your limits, He is limitless. You have weaknesses, He is absolute Omnipotent. You cannot save yourself, He is the Savior of the world. You know very little, He is Omniscient. This knowledge does one of two things to the human heart; we either rebel in pride and say we don't need God, or we humble ourselves and confess our complete dependence on Him. Our poverty of spirit either leads to cover up or confession. Our mourning is either from a selfish heart, because we feel life is unfair or from a surrendered heart, that realizes our desperate need for God. Here's the incredibly good news, Jesus came for all of us. He says, you can have an incredibly blessed life if you are willing to do it His way.

He gives us a clear roadmap or direction, so we can follow it. When we follow His roadmap, we end up where He wants us to end up. Listen to Jesus' promised destination; "Poor in spirit...you get the kingdom of Heaven." "When you mourn...you get God's comfort." All of Heaven's wealth is yours when you acknowledge that you are spiritually bankrupt. Did you get that? All that Heaven has to offer, you get, you just have to be honest about your lost state. It is like the wealthiest landowner coming to you and saying, "all you need to do is admit that you have black hair" and "if you do that all my wealth is yours." You happen to actually have black hair. You might hate the fact that you have black hair, but why would you deny it? Denying that which is absolutely true and missing out on a blessing beyond comprehension is not borderline insanity, it is completely ludicrous!

In the same way, the God of the universe comes to you and says; *"You are spiritually bankrupt, you cannot save yourself, no matter how much good you think you can do. Your heart is the problem and you cannot fix that yourself. Just admit it, mourn over the fact that without Me you have no hope to have a relationship with Me or live a blessed life. If you do, all I have is yours and I will heal you, comfort you and lead you to complete freedom."* That is exactly what Jesus came to do!

In Luke 4, we read Jesus returning to Galilee after He had fasted and prayed for forty days. Luke writes that He returned in the power of the Holy Spirit. On the Sabbath, as was Jesus' custom, He went to the synagogue and they handed to Him the Scroll of Isaiah. Jesus opened it up and purposely looked for Isaiah chapter 61. He read it and handed it back to the attendant and sat down. Every eye was on Him, you could hear the cranking of the cognitive thoughts going crazy in the minds of the people. What? This is a commoner, but to make matters worse for them, Jesus says; "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing!" How? This is a Messianic prophecy. So, they toss Jesus out. They could not believe His word. You see, they were so blinded by religion that they could not embrace the true freedom that Jesus brought for them.

It's easy to condemn them, but sometimes we do exactly the same. Jesus says; "Embrace your poverty, mourn over your sin and heaven is yours and My comfort is constant." Yet, we keep on trying to find the blessed life our way, instead of God's way. We don't say it by our words, but we sure do demonstrate it by our actions and by so doing we spiritually walk Jesus to the cliff and reject the liberty He has for us.

Have you recognized your poverty yet? Have you mourned over your sin? If not, the blessed life will forever be out of your reach. No matter how good you think you are, your goodness and mine is nothing but filthy rags before the Lord. Your Father is waiting, will you come? He will turn your mourning into dancing...

Reflection and Prayer:

- **Pray for all your fellow brothers and sisters, they are your climbing companions in this journey, so that we all will have the wisdom to pursue the blessed life, God's way. This is only the first week, don't be tempted to quit now. Ask for His grace to push through!**
- **Read the following passage and write down all that Jesus came to do for you.**
- ***Isaiah 61:1-7(Message) The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, Announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. God sent me to announce the year of his grace— a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies— and to comfort all who mourn, To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, Messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit. Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness" planted by God to display his glory. They'll rebuild the old ruins, raise a new city out of the wreckage. They'll start over on the ruined cities, take the rubble left behind and make it new. You'll hire outsiders to herd your flocks and foreigners to work your fields, But you'll have the title "Priests of God," honored as ministers of our God. You'll feast on the bounty of nations, you'll bask in their glory. Because you got a double dose of trouble and more than your share of contempt, Your inheritance in the land will be doubled and your joy go on forever.***