

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

There is worldly sorrow in contrast to godly sorrow. Worldly sorrow feels sorry for self but is not repentant. In contrast, godly sorrow is Godward and brings a true change of heart regarding sin called repentance (2 Cor. 7:10). As taught by Jesus, godly sorrow characterizes the true believer.

Matthew 5:4 (NKJV)

4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

There is a thematic connection between this beatitude and the Messianic text of Isaiah 61. Isaiah 61 is set in the context of Messianic restoration based on Israel's brokenness over their sin.

Comfort is extended to those who mourn over their sin, but without the mourning, there is no Messianic comfort. Repentance comes first – then the restoring comfort.

Isaiah 61:1–3 (NKJV)

1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the **brokenhearted**, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To **comfort all who mourn**,

3 To **console those who mourn** in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy **for mourning**, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

The mourning in view is sorrow over sin and the resulting consequences. This is an attitude of repentance corresponding with godly sorrow, which produces repentance that leads to salvation as spelled out by Paul in 2 Corinthians 7:10.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Those who in repentance mourn over their sin will know Messianic comfort – ultimately in the context of the kingdom. As seen in Isaiah 61, it is the Messiah/King Who brings this COMFORT. It is the comfort of restoration that gives beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning.

“It is not the absence of sin but the grieving over it which distinguishes the child of God from empty professors.” – **A.W. Pink**