

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Turning Tears into Telescopes

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Matthew 5:4

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1655

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2020 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The Beatitudes are not platitudes.
  - i) And they are contrary to what the world would say.
- b) Matthew 5:1-9
- c) Matthew 5:4
  - i) This is something the world would never say.
    - (1) We have the idea that if we could just go through life without ever crying and without experiencing any heartache that it would be wonderful.
    - (2) The people of this world believe that if we could just arrange conditions where we never have any sorrow or pain, then we could change people.
      - (a) Some believe that if we can change conditions, then we can change character.
        - (i) But this isn't what the Bible teaches.
          - 1. Adam and Eve fell while in a perfect environment in the Garden of Eden.
      - (3) The world puts the emphasis on condition; God puts the emphasis on character.
        - (a) Jesus puts the emphasis on what you are, not on what you have.
        - (b) Jesus doesn't say, "Blessed are those who have certain things," but "Blessed are those who are certain things."
- d) The second in the list of the Beatitudes is, "Blessed are they that mourn."
  - i) Matthew 5:4
  - ii) Jesus is not talking about the moaners but the mourners.
    - (1) He is not talking about those who have heartaches, troubles and difficulties in life.
  - iii) The word "mourn" here is the deepest word of the Psalms.
    - (1) In the Greek, it is the word used to describe what you feel at the graveside of a loved one.
      - (a) It is a strong word; a word for lament.
    - (2) Psalm 34:18
- e) Jesus was a man of sorrows.
  - i) John 11:35
  - ii) Do the things that break Jesus' heart break yours?
- f) Many of our church services are filled with cheerleader enthusiasm.
  - i) This is not speaking against joy.
  - ii) Ecclesiastes 3:4
    - (1) It is time for America to be on her face before God.
    - (2) This is a time to weep.
- g) One of the best things you can say about the mourners is that they have the sensitivity to feel.
  - i) Their hearts are touched.
- h) We have done all we can today to keep ourselves from feeling pain.

- i) We have psychologists who will numb our neurosis.
    - ii) We have counselors who will absolve us of all guilt.
    - iii) We have doctors to sedate our pain.
    - iv) We have insurance agents to take away our worries.
    - v) We go from one entertainment to another, from one amusement to another.
      - (1) The word “amuse” means “not to think.”
  - i) In Matthew 5:4, Jesus is speaking of those who primarily mourn over sin.
    - i) Their sin and the sin of humanity.
    - ii) Matthew 5:3
      - (1) When we see our bankruptcy, then it brings our brokenness.
  - j) Today’s message will look at three basic things found in Matthew 5:4
- 2) THE GUILT THAT CONVICTS US (MATTHEW 5:4)
- a) One of the hardest things for us to do is to really see that we have something to weep over.
  - b) The deceiving power of sin:
    - i) Matthew 5:21-22
      - (1) Most of us have a list of do’s and don’ts.
        - (a) This can lead to abominable pride in our lives.
        - (b) But Jesus rips the veneer off of this.
          - (i) The Lord Jesus gets to the heart of the matter.
          - (ii) For example, when Jesus sees anger in God’s ledger, He writes down murder because that is the reservoir of rage that is there that nobody else can see; but God sees.
    - ii) Matthew 5:27-28
      - (1) God looks at our hearts.
    - iii) Our rules and regulations do not make us like the Lord Jesus Christ.
      - (1) The Apostle Paul was a proud Pharisee.
        - (a) He kept all of the Ten Commandments outwardly, except one: thou shalt not covet.
          - (i) Romans 7:7
            - 1. The word “lust” here means “desire.”
        - (b) Paul was saying that he had kept the law and never committed murder, adultery, had never stolen anything, but he couldn’t say that he never wanted to.
    - iv) Many of us don’t realize how deceitfully wicked our hearts are.
      - (1) Jeremiah 17:9
  - c) The defiling power of sin:
    - i) Matthew 5:29-30
      - (1) With our eyes, we’re able to behold beauty.
        - (a) The eyes speak of the pleasurable things of life.
      - (2) With the hand, we’re able to grasp and hold things.
        - (a) This speaks of the profitable things of life.

- (3) This passage of Scripture is referring to the pleasurable things and precious things; the things we can see and hold.
  - ii) Sin takes these beautiful and precious things and perverts them.
    - (1) The devil has no raw materials.
      - (a) He takes the good things of God and perverts them.
  - d) The destroying power of sin:
    - i) Matthew 5:30
      - (1) The Lord Jesus is not saying that cutting off your hand or plucking out your eye is going to get you to Heaven.
        - (a) The Lord Jesus died for those sins.
      - (2) He is saying that it is better to be a maimed saint on your way to Heaven than to be a healthy sinner on your way to Hell.
    - ii) Sin destroys.
- 3) THE GRIEF THAT CONSUMES US (MATTHEW 5:4)
- a) This word for grief or mourning is not an ordinary word.
    - i) It is the deepest, most poignant word for sorrow in the Bible.
    - ii) It means “to lament,” “to be consumed with grief.”
  - b) This grief is missing in the modern church.
    - i) Many people are baptized pagans.
      - (1) They have united with churches, but they have never been broken over their sin.
    - ii) 2 Corinthians 7:10
      - (1) This is the missing note in today’s churches.
      - (2) Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation.
      - (3) Worldly sorrow works death.
  - c) In Matthew 5:4, Jesus is speaking of Godly sorrow.
    - i) Godly sorrow is not mere regret or remorse.
      - (1) Regret is primarily in the mind; remorse goes past the mind and to the heart.
      - (2) Remorse without repentance can be a dangerous thing.
        - (a) Remorse looks at sin and its consequences.
        - (b) Repentance looks beyond the sin to Calvary.
      - (3) A person filled with remorse is one who loves his sin and hates himself at the same time.
      - (4) A person who has repented is one who hates his sin because he loves the Savior.
      - (5) Judas was filled with remorse, but he never repented.
        - (a) Matthew 27:3-5
      - (6) Simon Peter, on the other hand, denied the Lord Jesus; but he was filled with repentance.
        - (a) Simon Peter realized that not only had he broken God’s law, but he had also broken God’s heart; and that broke Peter’s heart.
          - (i) Luke 22:55-62

- (b) Peter became a great preacher of Pentecost.
    - (i) Acts 2
  - (c) There was a Godly sorrow that worked repentance unto salvation.
- d) True repentance and faith are heads and tails of the same coin.
  - i) Psalm 51:4
    - (1) David expressed repentance after he committed adultery.
    - (2) David knew that not only had he sinned against his wife, children, his own body, and against the kingdom, but he had also sinned against God and God's law.
    - (3) David knew that he had hurt God.
  - ii) Psalm 51:17
    - (1) Are you broken, not just over your sin, but from your sin?
    - (2) Are you broken, not just from what sin has done to you, but from what sin has done to God?
    - (3) Have you experienced not just regret and remorse but repentance?
- 4) THE GOD WHO COMFORTS US (MATTHEW 5:4)
  - a) Once we see the guilt and feel the grief, then we can know the grace.
  - b) To be comforted is not a sympathetic pat on the back.
    - i) The word "comfort" is not filled with sympathy but strength.
      - (1) "Com" means "with" and "fort" means "strength."
    - ii) God is saying that He will put His strength in us; He will be our strength.
      - (1) To be comforted means that God will give us strength.
  - c) Psalm 138:3
  - d) God gives us strength through the Holy Spirit.
    - i) John 14:16-17
    - ii) The Holy Spirit gives comfort to those who have confessed their sins, for those sins are nailed to the cross of Jesus.
  - e) 1 John 2:1-2
    - i) When we sin after we become Christians, we have an advocate.
    - ii) This word "advocate" is exactly the same word that is used in John 14:16 for "comforter."
      - (1) In the Greek, this word comes from two words meaning "alongside" and "call."
        - (a) It is someone called alongside of you.
  - f) The devil is like a prosecuting attorney.
    - i) He is the accuser of the brethren.
      - (1) Revelation 12:10
    - ii) When he accuses us, we can tell him to see our lawyer.
      - (1) Our lawyer, the Holy Spirit who is our advocate, will handle it.
  - g) When we come to the place of honest brokenness over our sin, the Holy Spirit gives us comfort that our sin is forgiven.
  - h) When we are in need, the Holy Spirit stands close by to the broken.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) God will turn every hurt into a hallelujah and every tear to a comfort.
  - i) It all begins when we see ourselves as poor in spirit.
    - (1) When we see that it's not just what we have done but what we are.
    - (2) It's not just what sin has done to us but what it has done to God.
    - (3) And with a broken heart, we repent of the sin.
      - (a) We don't just regret it or feel remorse over it, but repent of it.
- b) Have you repented of your sin?
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16