

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Turning Tears into Telescopes

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 5:4

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1655

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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