

The Traits of a True Disciple/Believer

In the eyes & mind of Jesus Christ.

(Understanding the Beatitudes as code of ethics and standard of conduct)

Matthew 5: verses 4-5

V4: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”.

The person who mourns: Will be comforted.

In the 2nd Beatitude, Jesus said, that those who mourn (Gk, penthountes, pen-thoon'-tehs) are blessed. The Greek word is the strongest word possible for mourning. It is the deep mourning and wailing that occurs over the death of a loved one. It is sorrow—a desperate, helpless sorrow. It is the grief that pours out of a broken heart. It speaks here of a sorrow for sin, a broken heart over evil and suffering. It is a brokenness of self that comes from seeing Christ on the cross and realizing that our sins put Him there (see Jas.4:9).

Who is it that mourns in this Beatitude? Who is it so full of grief that they cry and weep and groan deep from within? Three people mourn in the way Jesus speaks.

➤ Those who are desperately sorry for their sins and unworthiness before God. They have such a sense of their sin that their heart is broken.

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Lu.18:13)

➤ Those who genuinely feel the desperate plight and terrible suffering of others. The tragedies, the problems, the sinful behaviour of others—the state, the condition, the lostness of the world—all weigh ever so heavily upon the heart of the mourner.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Mt.9:36)

When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Mt.14:14)

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. (Ps.103:13)

➤ Those who experience personal tragedy and intense trauma.

People should mourn over their sins. There is not only a godly sorrow, but there is also a worldly sorrow (2-cor 7:10). There is also a self-centred sorrow (2-cor1:6-7). But genuine godly sorrow leads to confession and humility before God and results in being lifted up (Jas.4:8–10). Jesus promises that those who mourn will be comforted. In fact, the person who mourns is comforted by Christ Himself—a heart-gripping thought. Christ is called the man of sorrows and was acquainted with grief (Is.53:3). He is able to draw a person ever so close, comforting and strengthening beyond imagination (He.2:18; 4:15–16).

Deeper Study (5:4)

1. There is a present comfort.

a. A settled peace: a relief, a solace, a consolation within.

Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (Jn.14:27)

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (Jn.16:33)

b. An assurance of forgiveness and acceptance by God.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. (Ep.1:3)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn.1:9)

c. A fullness of joy: a sense of God’s presence, care, and guidance (Jn.14:26); a sense of His sovereignty; a sense of His working all things out for good to those who love Him.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Ro.8:28)

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Ps.16:11)

2. There is an eternal comfort.

a. A passing from death to life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (Jn.3:16)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life

b. A wiping away of all tears.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Re.7:17)

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Re.21:4)

He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. (Is.25:8)

The meek: Will inherit the earth.

V5: **“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”.**

In the 3rd Beatitude, Jesus taught that the meek (prais, prah-ace’) are blessed. They will inherit the earth. Many people equate meekness with weakness. They picture a meek person as mousy and timid. Nothing could be further from the truth. To be meek is to be strong, but, at the same time, gentle and humble. It is to have a strong, yet teachable, spirit. It is not being weak, bowing, or spineless. It speaks of people who have all the emotions and ability to take and conquer, but they are able to control themselves. It speaks of a person who is disciplined because he or she is Spirit-controlled (Ga.5:22–23). The opposites of true meekness are arrogance and pride. Too many people have an air of sufficiency and superiority. A meek person knows that they need and do not have all the answers.

Who are the meek? How does meekness present itself in a person’s daily life?

➤ The meek are controlled, not undisciplined. The mind and body are disciplined. Passion and urges, speech and behaviour, sight and touch are always controlled.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. (Ro.6:12)

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. (1 Co.6:12)

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (1 Co.9:27)

➤ The meek are humble, not prideful. They are humble before God. They know their need for God and for God’s hand upon their lives, their need to be saved and controlled by God. And they are humble before other people. They know they are not perfect, and they do not feel they are not superior to others. They understand they do not have it all, nor do they know it all.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (Ro.12:3)

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Ph.2:3–4)

➤ The meek are gentle, not easily provoked. They are always in control when dealing with people: cool, even-tempered, able to show displeasure without reacting impulsively, able to answer softly (see Christ, Mt.11:29; 1 Pe.2:23; see Moses, Nu.12:3).

[Love] does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful. (1 Co.13:5)

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil. (2 Ti.2:24)

➤ The meek are forgiving, not revengeful.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (Mt.6:14)

➤ The meek are quiet. They aspire to lead a quiet life. They are quiet before God. They quietly surrender to God, acknowledging their need without show or without drawing attention to themselves. They quietly go before God daily, depending on Him for guidance and care. In addition, they live quietly before other people. They are controlled in all things, in both speech and behaviour.

And to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you. (1 Th.4:11)

But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. (1 Pe.3:4)

Deeper Study (5:5)

1. The meek inherit the earth now; that is, they presently enjoy and experience the good things of the earth.

a. The meek have found themselves. They are comfortable with themselves. They know who they are; therefore, they are strong and confident, yet gentle and humble.

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Ph.1:6)

b. The meek know where they are going; they are teachable. They have nothing to prove. They have purpose, meaning, and significance in life.

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. (2 Ti.4:8)

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (2 Ti.4:18)

c. The meek are assured of victory, conquest, triumph over whatever confronts them. They are controlled; therefore, they control circumstances instead of letting circumstances control them. Consequently, they are not defeated by stress and tension.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Co.10:13)

d. The meek have peaceful souls. They carry whatever pressure and tension comes their way to Christ, and He relieves it all.

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Mt.11:28–30)

2. The earth is theirs eternally, that is, the new heavens and earth. An inheritance of eternal life and dominion is promised to them, for they are joint-heirs with Christ.

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Ro.8:16–17)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. (1 Pe.1:3–4; see 2 Pe.3:10–13)

heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (Re.21:1)

Closing Remarks:

With Jesus's announcement that the kingdom was near (Matt 4:17), people were naturally asking, "How do I qualify to be in God's Kingdom?" Jesus said that God's Kingdom is organised differently from worldly kingdoms. In the kingdom of Heaven, wealth, power, and authority are unimportant. Kingdom people seek different blessings & benefits, and they have different attitudes. The challenge is before the church to see if they reflect the humility and self-sacrifice of Jesus, our King?