

Mourn to Be Happy

Matthew 5:4

Sunday, January 14, 2018



Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group. ~ Pastor Matt

KEY THOUGHT

"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you (Matthew 5:4 MSG). Our dreams offer the world but deliver nothing. But the Lord longs to comfort us with the only sure anchor, the hope of life through Christ.

OPEN

- What is the strangest or best dream you've ever had?
- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention? (Read Matthew 5:4)

DISCUSSION

- What is one dream you had for your life that you have realized or accomplished? What is one dream you have that you haven't realized or accomplished?
- Read Matthew 5:4. What sticks out to you about that verse? Why do you think Jesus included it in the beginning of His first major sermon?
- Last week, we learned that being 'poor in spirit' means to acknowledge our spiritual poverty—our bankruptcy before God. Why would those who are poor in spirit feel a need to mourn?
- How do you view suffering? How would I explain the good suffering brings to a non-Christian?
- When we lose the earthly things that are dearest to us, we are often drawn to thinking about spiritual things. Why does it take earthly loss for us to more easily focus on the spiritual?
- Have you experienced a time of mourning or extreme grief in your life? What are some of the emotions you felt? **Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.** How do you mourn with an eternal perspective?
- One of the reasons people in Scripture mourned most often was because of their sin. Why don't we share that mourning?
- What could change in our lives if Christians began to take sin seriously enough to mourn over it?

NEXT STEPS

How do you need to see God differently in order to receive the comfort He offers you?

Pray for God to convict you of sin. Pray that you will be confronted with the sin in this world—and in your life—in such a way that you mourn. Thank God for His promise to comfort those who mourn. Ask for forgiveness for the times when we haven't taken sin seriously enough to mourn over it.