

Happy are the Sad

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication: Zach/Caitlynn Bell. *Harper James & Owen Scott.*
1. When Christian parents *present their child to God* before the *congregation*, they come **to thank God** for the life entrusted to them, **to offer their child back to God**, **and** to ask for **God's blessing** on their family life.
 - a) 1 Sam.1:27,28^{nasb} *Hannah For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also **dedicated** him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is **dedicated** to the Lord.*
 2. We, as a congregation, **share** in their joy, **pray** with them for the children's well-being, and **receive** them into the care of the church.
- B. Slide3 Daylight Savings:
- C. Slide4 Harvest Festival: 30 years of serving our community together.

II. Slide5 Intro:

- A. Last week we looked at the *overview* of **Jesus' 1st sermon** on the mount/hill top (from ch.5-7)
1. It's not the **do** attitudes it's the **be** attitudes.
- B. We looked at the 1st beatitude *Blessed are the poor in spirit For theirs is the kingdom of heaven*
1. **Or**, blessings (*a godlike happiness*) upon *the one who realizes their own spiritual poverty/emptiness & then puts all their trust in God's ability to supply their spiritual need.*
 2. You must enter the kingdom of heaven...*lowly, poor, bankrupt (sp)*
 - a) **If** you send a sinner to **school**, *you'll* have an **educated sinner**.
 - b) **If** you send a sinner to a **psychologist**, *you'll* have a **well adjusted sinner**.
 - c) **If** you give a sinner **money**, *you'll* have a **wealthy sinner**.
 - d) **If** you give a sinner **religion**, *you'll* have a **religious sinner**.
 - e) **But** send a sinner *repentant of his sins* to **the cross**, **and** you'll have a **forgiven sinner**. [*Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to the cross I cling*] *Rock of Ages*
- C. Slide6 *The Sermon on the Mount* describes the way in which we are **free to live** when we commit ourselves to the *kingship of Jesus*.

1. When we realize that *in Jesus* the kingdom is **near** to us, **we are free to abandon ourselves totally to God's will**, confident that, as we obey, He will act to shape events.
 2. **Note: 1st**, these are **8 character traits** that identify **true servanthood**.
2nd, these traits open the door to **inner happiness**.
3rd, attached to each character trait is **a corresponding promise**.
- D. **Slide7 Msg vs.3,4** *You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. 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.*

III. Slide8 **HAPPY ARE THE SAD (4) Title**

- A. **Blessed are those who mourn** - What a strange paradox!
1. **Who wants to congratulate someone because they carry a heavy burden, or an aching heart? What has been your deepest darkest grief?**
- B. **Blessed are they who mourn** someone they've lost recently. **Blessed are they who mourn** a previous marriage. **Blessed are they who mourn** a wayward son/daughter that hasn't come back yet. **Blessed are they who mourn** a dream that is fading quickly.
1. **We need to mourn** over the absence of holiness in our lives/world.
We need to mourn when we don't even blush at evil.
- C. Someone said, *If you want to know someone's character, find out what makes him laugh & what makes him weep.*
1. What we **laugh at** & what we **weep over** indicates our **values of life** & values are a part of maturity.

IV. Slide9 **BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN (4a)**

- A. **What is it to Mourn?** **πενθέω** (*pen-theh-o*) To lament, to grieve, to mourn for the dead.
1. **Slide10 Trench**, *To grieve w/a grief which so takes possession of the whole being that it cannot be hid.*
 2. **Kittels**, *In most instances it is a sorrow which is outwardly expressed in some way. By tears, by laments, or that which is at least associated w/such expressions.*

3. Augustine, *Mourning is sadness at the loss of things held dear.*

a) When **pain** is kept inside it *poisons the emotional system* in the same way an **infection** spreads thru the bloodstream.

B. The main thrust of this Beatitude is *a supernatural sorrow.*

1. Jesus is talking about **repentance of sin**. 2 Cor,7:10nlt *For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation.*

a) This is the *logical response* to the 1st beatitude.

C. Slide11 When a person sees his **spiritual bankruptcy** he can respond 1 of 4 ways:

1. He can **deny** his sp bankruptcy exists, like the *Pharisees*, & put up a front.

2. He can **admit** his sp bankruptcy & try to change things himself.

3. He can **admit** his need & so **despair** over it that he *gives up completely.*

a) eg. **Judas**, when he saw he was a sinner, committed suicide.

4. The logical thing is to **admit** your own spiritual needs & **turn** to God for what that need is.

a) A person truly *poor in sp* will *mourn over himself & his sin*, & thru this mourning, experience *the comfort of God.*

D. Slide12 We must distinguish between regret, remorse, & repentance:

1. **Regret** is when my conscience of sin rests **only in my mind**, Then its' *regret.*

2. **Remorse** is when it affects my **mind & heart**, it is remorse. And *remorse left here is dangerous.*

3. **Repentance** is when that *concern for my sin* brings me to the place where I am willing to **turn from it & obey** God. When my concern affects my **will** as well as my **mind & heart**...then I have experienced true *repentance.*

4. Slide13 eg. In the Prodigal Son story, he involved his **mind, heart, & will.**

a) His **Mind** told him *his fathers servants were better off than he was.*

b) His **Heart** made him sick of his situation, *I perish w/hunger.*

c) His **Will** motivated him to *arise & go to his Father.* (He didn't stay sitting in the pig pen)

E. Slide14a **MOURN FOR WHAT?** *Mourn over Sin & Despise it.*

1. What's your attitude toward sin? Do you see it the way God does & seek to treat it the way God does?

a) If you try to **cover sin** *or* **defend it**...you certainly have the *wrong attitude*.

F. Slide14b Mourn for Himself in what he **HAS DONE**

1. Are you able to say, **O, wretched man that I am. Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

2. Ps.38:18 **For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.**

G. Slide14c Mourn for Himself in what he **DOES**

1. Ask yourself, **What is it in me that makes me behave like that? Why should I be Irritable? Why should I be bad tempered? Why am I not able to control myself? Why do I harbor that unkind, jealous & envious thought? What is it in me?**

a) *Blessed is the man* who is not only conscious of his failure, **but** who grieves over it, **who** takes it to heart.

b) *Blessed is the man* who is so grieved over his moral and spiritual lack **that** he turns his face towards **Him** was able to supply his need.

H. Slide14d Mourn for the sins of **OTHERS**

1. Like **Jeremiah** (Israel's captivity). **Jesus** (Jerusalem). **Paul** (churches he ministered to)

2. **Mourn over the wife** who left her husband for another. **For the man** who has bailed on his responsibilities. **For your friends child** who is so rude to his parents. **Mourn over your backslidden friends.**

a) *Blessed, therefore, is the believer* that shares with Jesus the pain and anguish of a world gone wrong. *Blessed is the believer* who enters into the fellowship of **His** suffering. *Blessed is he* that fills up that which is lacking of the suffering of Christ his own body. *Blessed is he* who struggles under the weight of a friend's pain/agonies/woe

V. Slide15 **FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED (4b)**

A. *One of life's major mistakes is being the last member in the family to come down w/the flu - after all the sympathy has run out. :)*

B. **What type of Comfort?** (God's) - **Sorrow** that is turned into **Joy**.

1. **Comfort** - comes from 2 Latin words meaning *w/strength*. To encourage, give strength.

2. Our *mourning* puts us in touch w/the eternal resources of God, & the result is God's *comfort*.
 - a) Ps.138:3msg *The moment I called out, you stepped in; you made my life large w/strength*
- C. *What 4-Ways do we find Comfort?* Through God, the Scriptures, the HS, His people.
 1. Those who enter into the *fellowship of Christ suffering do find comfort*.
 2. They find it not only later in the *by & by*, but in the *here & now*.
 3. They find it *in all circumstances, in all situations*.
- D. *Slide16 Tears* are investments in **future Joys**.
 1. Ps.30:5 *For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning*.
- E. When we learn how to *mourn*, we'll have a deeper understanding of *the sinfulness of sin & the graciousness of God*.
- F. *Whose mourning leads to Comfort?*
 1. Well, everyone whose mourning leads them to *Jesus Christ*.
 2. *Whenever your sorrow, Whenever your burden, whatever your heart ache, if it turns your missteps towards Him, you are sure to find consolation & comfort¹*
 3. *Would you not now exchange your bitterest sorrow for the world's rarest joy?*
- G. *Slide17 Robert Louis Stevenson* tells of a **storm** that caught a vessel off a rocky coast and threatened to drive it and its passengers to destruction. In the midst of the terror, one daring man, contrary to orders, went to the deck, made a dangerous passage to the pilot house and saw the steerman, lashed fast at his post of holding the wheel unwaveringly, and inch by inch, turning the ship out, once more, to sea. **The pilot saw the watcher and smiled. Then**, the daring passenger went below and gave out a note of cheer:

"I have seen the face of the pilot, and he smiled. All is well."

 1. *Have you seen the face of Jesus?*
- H. *Slide18 Eccl.7:1-4*
- I. Your **death-day**, is better than your **birth-day** (1)

¹ Clovis Chappell, The Sermon on the Mount, pg.27.

1. If you have a good name, your **death** will be better than your **birth** *“because nothing will be able to hurt your name.”*
2. On the day of your **birth** you were given a name. On the day of your **death**, that name will be *either putrid or fragrant*, depending on how you lived.
 - a) You have heard it said, we will all have on our tombstone *2 date’s and a dash in between*. It’s the *dash* that matters.

J. *Funerals are better than Feasts* (2)

1. Solomon not saying let’s go hang out at a funeral home.
 - a) He answers *why* he makes this statement after the word *for*.
2. Memorial services usually get *everyone’s attention* regarding life & death.
 - a) But that is helpful...*why? It reminds us there is still time to change; time to examine; time to confess; time to forgive; & time to plan ahead.*
3. So Jesus said, *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

K. *Slide19 Sorrow is better than laughter* (3,4)

1. *Sorrow* can teach us lessons that will not be learned any other way.
2. (3b) The wizard in *The Wizard of Oz* says to the Tin Man, *“As for you, my galvanized friend, you want a heart! You don’t know how lucky you are **not** to have one. Hearts will never be practical until they can be made unbreakable.”*
 - a) *We know that quite the opposite is true.* It is the fact that *hearts are fragile* which makes them *practical*.
3. **In sorrow**, If only we can remember these 2 things:
 [1] There is **a lesson** to be learned [2] And **a work** to be accomplished.

L. *I walked a mile with **Pleasure**; She chatted all the way;
 But left me none the wiser For all she had to say.
 I walked a mile with **Sorrow**, And ne’er a word said she;
 But, oh! The things I learned from her, When **sorrow** walked with me.* *Robert Browning*