



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

February 19th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:4

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 **Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.***

Our focus this week is verse 4, but how might this verse expand and deepen the ideas found in verse 3?

Most commentators see this verse not as a general promise to anyone who mourns, over say the loss of a loved one, which is nearly everyone, but rather a heartfelt response to the spiritual poverty acknowledged in verse 3. i.e., “I mourn over my spiritual poverty.”

Read Luke 18:10-14 – (I found The Passion Translation added freshness and emotion to the text.)

Can you relate to the second man – if so, in what way?

How does this man exemplify Matthew 5:4?

King David’s adultery and murder were exposed by the prophet Nathan and in response David wrote Psalm 51. It is a significant Psalm and worth your detailed reflection at some point, however today we focus on verse 17 which says:

*My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise. NIV*

For contrast the NLT translates it

*The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.*

King David went on to be widely regarded as Israel's greatest King. His sin didn't disqualify him from loving and serving God. Nor does sin do so for us. What do we learn from 1 John 1:9-2:1 about sin, confession, and forgiveness?

Mourning over sin is necessary but not the end, it's the beginning of restoration and new hope.

Proverbs 28:13 says

*Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper,
but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

Remember it is only the Enemy who wants you to remain paralysed by guilt and sin. God wishes to renew, restore, and recommission you to a fruitful life marked with moments of great joy.

In what way is the promise of verse 4 "they will be comforted" explained in these various readings today?

What particularly struck you with fresh realisation in today's reflection?