

Upside-Down Living
The Radical Message of the Beatitudes
The Power of Spiritual Mourning
Matthew 5:4

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sept. 30, 2018

What would spiritual mourning look like in your life?

I. You'll See Your Own Sin in Specific and Painful Ways

Look at **Isaiah 6:1-5**, where you can see both of the first two Beatitudes ignited in Isaiah's life.

Isaiah 6:5 "Woe is me, for I am undone! ..."

He says he's undone or ruined, which shows that he's been gripped with his own spiritual poverty. "Woe is me," is his emotional response as he begins to mourn over his sin.

Isaiah is seeing his own sin in the light of God's holiness and purity so that he's undone and mourning over his spiritual condition.

A. You Don't Just Mourn Over Sin in General

Spiritual mourning is a heartfelt sorrow over specific sins.

Spiritual mourning has a precise and clear focus, because it zeroes in on specific, named sins.

Our enemy, Satan, loves to come after Christians with an overall, vague and depressing sense of total unworthiness and failure that makes you just want to throw in the towel and quit the whole Christian life.

When you're spiritually mourning, you're able to see your sin clearly and you're willing to state your sin clearly, without blame-shifting, excusing, or being evasive. That's the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

B. You'll Be Convicted to Cry Out but Not Paralyzed to Give Up and Do Nothing

God knows our frame and He knows how frail we are, so He's not looking to crush us, but He's wanting to convict us and that's best done one sin at a time.

Psalm 103:13-14 "As a father shows compassion on his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust."

God could just throw on a floodlight and show you all the junk that's in the deepest, darkest recesses of your soul all at once, but He's a good Father so He doesn't do that because it would overwhelm you and cause you to lose heart.

God always uses a flashlight when He leads you into the murky basement of your soul as He chooses to illuminate just a few things He wants you to focus on. He puts the floodlight on His Son, Jesus.

The Holy Spirit doesn't want you to just despair in yourself, but to hope in Christ! That's how you can tell the difference between what your enemy and your flesh are trying to do in your life, and what the Holy Spirit is doing. The Holy Spirit wants to bring conviction and hope!

Paul talks about this balanced ministry of floodlight/flashlight when he says that kingdom people are 'sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.'

2 Corinthians 6:10 "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

To hold onto both sorrow and rejoicing, do as Paul did in his own life in **Romans 7:24-25**. He had a flashlight on his sin and a floodlight on his Savior!

Romans 7:24-25 "O, wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

II. Your Intellectual Beliefs Will Be Ignited with an Emotion to Lead You to Do Something about Your Sin

Spiritual mourning is at the heart of biblical repentance. It includes beliefs that turn into actions, that change the way you think and live.

A. What You Say You Believe Can Be Seen in How You Behave

The Bible talks about faith and repentance being two sides of the same salvation coin that leads to life in Christ!

If you have no desire to do what your Savior says, and you're making no plans to even try, then you're probably not in the kingdom.

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Repentance is about a change of mind that leads to a change of direction in your life.

B. What You Choose to Confess You're Also Willing to Forsake

Proverbs 28:13 "Whoever covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

Forsaking your sin is never optional. Don't have a presumptuous attitude about God's mercy and forgiveness and act like He owes it to you or it's your right, regardless of being repentant or not.

Isaiah 55:6-9 "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

Jesus comforts you in the midst of your less-than-perfect struggle to repent of that sin!

When you enter into spiritual mourning, you're always seeing more than just your sin. You're also seeing your Savior and what He did about your sin. Never see your sin without the floodlight also on your Savior.

“For every look at yourself take ten looks at Christ.” – Robert Murray M'Cheyne