



Sunday, October 10, 2010: Blessed are Those Who Mourn

Scripture: Matthew 5:4; Luke 6:20-26

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. All true blessedness begins with repentance and humility before God.
2. These attitudes in Matthew 5 are only possible by personal regeneration in Christ.
3. Our culture's happiness obsession is leading only to despair, misery and guilt.
4. Blessedness means to be satisfied as God is satisfied.
5. We can't attain happiness through material experiences. Those material pursuits only serve to highlight what we're lacking.
6. A spiritual mourning is the basis of true happiness.
7. People grieve for the loss of what was, what should have been, or what could have been.
8. Pascal said the human condition is a complex of boredom, anxiety and inconstancy.
9. Because we lost communion and fellowship with God, our fallen condition is miserable, dead.
10. Every solution outside of Christ is unable to overcome this fact of human fallenness.
11. Philosophers have written their utopias in attempt to fix the sense of loss. We know what we could be but are not.
12. We know our obligations to God and yet fail to meet those obligations.
13. Confronting one's guilt and burden without Christ leads to the exaltation of vice and all kinds of guilt shifting.
14. Repentance is not a process of false morbidity, but it is to be free from guilt leading to the inexpressible joy of salvation.
15. A truly repentant man will not only mourn for his own sin, but also the condition of the world around him.

16. When the gospel has truly touched our hearts, we'll not only be angry, but we'll mourn our sin and the results of sin.
17. Outside of Christ, man is not only dead, he also stinks before God.
18. Jesus pronounces woe on the laughter of man that will not mourn because of sin.
19. There's a superficial conception of joy and happiness today. However, conviction and sorrow precede true blessedness.
20. Failure to understand the doctrine of sin and the nature of joy is at the heart of the church's failure.
21. Our inexpressible joy is based on our experience of the mercy of God, as we recognize our redemption into the image of God.
22. We must learn to weep before our God; our tears must send us to Him.
23. We're invited to join the heavenly laughter (Psalm 2:4).

Application Questions:

1. What is the only basis for obeying the Sermon on the Mount?
2. Describe the "good grief" that Christ calls us to.
3. Compare the teaching of Ecclesiastes 7:3-4 with its parallel passages in Matthew 5:4 and Luke 6:21.
4. Explain how sorrow is good for the heart.
5. Why does our culture's pursuit of happiness lead only to guilt and despair?
6. Do I weep before God because of my own sin?
7. Do I mourn for the condition of the world around me?
8. How can we know true blessedness and joy?