

Matthew 5:4–6
Spirit-Given, and Satisfied, Groanings

Saturday, November 25, 2023 • Read Matthew 5:4–6

Questions from the Scripture text: Who are blessed in v4? What will be done to them? Who are blessed in v5? How? Who are blessed in v6? For what do they hunger? What else do they do for righteousness? What will be done for them?

What is the inner life of a believer like? Matthew 5:4–6 prepares us for the morning sermon on the Lord's Day. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the inner life of a believer is one of longing for Christ, and for what we shall be like, in Him, at last.**

Blessed are those who mourn (v4). Those who are poor in spirit, who know Christ to be their only wealth, already have the kingdom (v3b). But despite the "already" of having the kingdom, they mourn that it has not yet come in its fullness. They still pray, "Thy kingdom come" (cf. 6:10). They grieve that they do not yet see all things subjected to Christ (cf. Heb 2:8, Rom 8:18–25). Their eyes still cry tears, because death and sorrow and sin and pain continue (cf. Rev 21:4).

But if we mourn over our sin and misery and all ongoing effects of the fall, as those who hate everything that is against Christ (v4a), then we must surely be comforted in the completion of the working out of the effects of His victory (v4b). They days for these grievous things are numbered. They shall be ended. Then, those who mourn shall be everlastingly comforted. One of the things that most pains us is the feeling that comfort will never come. But let such feelings be overruled by the truth of Christ—by the reality of Christ! They shall, indeed, be comforted.

Blessed are the meek (v5). The believer continually experiences something much more troubling than the fact that the cosmos is not yet what it ought to be. The believer himself is not what he ought to be. For that reason, he is meek before God and before men. Before God, faith has learned not to murmur or complain of Him or of His providence, because faith in this life is keenly aware that we are not yet what we ought to be. God is making us what we ought to be, so we yield to whatever His fatherly wisdom and goodness determine to give us.

The partially sanctified believer also refuses to think highly of himself in comparison to others. And he does not attempt to inflate others' opinion of himself. This comes with a great present blessedness. If we do not advance our own reputation or our own interests but meekly know our place as unprofitable servants at best (v5a), we find that resting in Christ elevates us to the status of joint-heirs with Him (v5b)—even if, for a time, we suffer as we wait for the inheritance (cf. Rom 8:17). And, it gives us an even greater future blessedness, as we come into the full inheritance of the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (v6). There is a contentedness with God in the meekness of v5, but we have already begun to consider how it is accompanied by a holy discontentedness with ourselves. In this life, we simply are not righteous like we ought to be (and neither are others toward us). If our hunger and thirst is for righteousness, we will be constantly hungry and thirsty (v6a)! This simply isn't the new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells (cf. 2Pet 3:13).

Again, there is a filling that is present. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness find that Christ Himself is satisfying. We even praise God that He is completely satisfied with us in Christ. But, the God Who loves us with adopting love is not satisfied to leave us as we are. He is determined to conform us to the image of His Son (cf. Rom 8:29). Therefore, we are not satisfied to remain as we are. Trying to live that way is a common mistake of our antinomian age. But the promise in v6 is set in the future. They *shall be* filled. Our happiness is forward-looking to glory.

Here is a marvelous guarantee: we in whom the Spirit has created this hunger shall ultimately be filled. The work that He has begun in us WILL be completed (cf. Ph 1:6). We WILL be conformed to Christ's image (cf. Ro 8:29–30). And even as we purify ourselves as He is pure, we are doing this precisely because we have that assured hope that we will be like Him (cf. 1Jn 3:2–3).

In what way has grace taught you to mourn? Over what, specifically, have you been mourning by this grace? How has your meekness before God been presenting itself in your life? How has your meekness before men been presenting itself in your life? In what particular ways have you been hungering and thirsting for righteousness. In what way can you be satisfied now? In what other ways are you sure to be satisfied later?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving us Christ, so that we may be blessed already in Him. And thank You for producing in us, by Your Spirit, holy groaning and longing for the ultimate fulfillment of all that You have desired for us and Christ has won for us. Grant unto us to live happily as those who know already the satisfaction that is absolutely sure to be completely fulfilled in Christ; we ask through His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP23B "The Lord's My Shepherd" or TPH464 "The Beatitudes"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 5 verse 4 through 6. These are God's words. Blessed are those who mourn? For they shall be comforted. Bluster. The meek. For they shall inherit the earth. Bluster, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. For they shall be filled. Oh man, my sense this reading of god's inspired.

Inherent word.

There is an instant gratification sort of presentation of the gospel. Or even desire of the flesh. Which always Wax that fruit of the spirit, which is patience. And, Once instead to be instantly gratified, Which if our lord Jesus had fallen into it and his temptation. We would have perished in our sins.

But, rather than fall for the instant gratification of Giving a moment superficial worship to the devil. In order to come into, that glorious kingdom. That has described in daniel too. Of course, the lord Jesus. In delight and his father satisfactionful. Feeling full. Um, with the goodness of his father and his father's will Was glad.

For the joy set before him to endure the cross, despise the shame. But there is a way of thinking that says, If you become a christian, Then everything will just suddenly be pleasant. Forever. Now, if you have the lord, And if the spirit blesses to you, The awareness of, Having the lord.

Then you will. Rejoice in the lord, always. But a Christian is not only someone who rejoices in the lord, he's someone who mourns, Over. Literally everything else just about A christian is somebody who Have income to know, the lord having come to recognize himself. As being poor and spirit.

By the same spirit who shows him his own poverty. He sees that the creation. Continues to grow and bondage to corruption and decay. He sees that there are many. Who are still in their sins.

And he sees that those who are converted, Still are not yet what they ought to be especially himself. So, that the Not only does the creation groan in Romans 8, but those who have the first fruits of the spirit Grown.

There is a groaning. That comes from the spirit and so, if we are poor and spirit like we heard last week in verse 3, And if the lord gives us himself to be our wealth. Part of But what happens at that time is that he gives us his spirit and from his spirit comes groaning.

We who have the first fruits of the spirit grown. Romans 8 and you saw the end of roman 7. A lot of that groaning. That which i hate. I do the good that i want to do. I don't do. Google save me from the body of this death. But bluster, those who mourn.

For they shall be comforted. Who will save me from the body of this death? Thanks be to god through jesus christ. Our lord If we are groaning that things are not as they ought to be, if we are mourning, Over things being not as they ought to be. Then we shall be comforted when things are as they ought to be.

One of the great blessings of the christian life. Is to know that the lord is always what he ought to be. And he thus far has joined by the holy angels. And the souls of the just made perfect. Which is one of the reasons why it's such a happy thing to come to public worship where we joined the only three entities in existence who are as they ought to be.

And we anticipate the day when we shall be to. And he ministers to us in the worship. Those very things by which he is bringing us to be. As we ought to be. But the more conformed we are to christ. The more conformed, we are to the mind of the spirit.

The more rightly we will respond. Yes to god, so that we rejoice in him. Always we rejoice in christ, always Because he is, as he ought to be. Even as we were thinking about this morning, And the men's breakfast that he Never for a moment hates his church. Although there is much hateful remaining in her.

Yet he continually nourishes, her continually cherished since her continually loves our And yet, if we're rightly responding to the world, Then we say, things are not as they ought to be in the world. They're ought not be. Cancer. They're all not be. All of. The disease. All of those things that belong to the corruption and decay of the lower creatures.

The, the Rest of the creation. And they're all not to be sin in man and they're ought not to be death. They're ought not to be unbelief. There are ought not to be many things. And so, one of the things that we see about the lord jesus, is that there is much over, which he groaned there is much over, which he grieved.

There is much that he mourned. And so, being conformed to him does not mean that we will find everything pleasant all the time. It means that we will be. Like christ, it means. That we will start to display those things that those who have the first fruits of the spirit have.

But it means that we will black be blessed. Because the things that we are mourning for the things, we are groaning for the things we are longing for Are the very things. That he came to earn that he did earn and accomplish that his spirit is applying and that god has willed to be done.

So that if we have a morning that does not come from our flesh, But in the poverty of our spirits, our morning has come from his spirit. That is a morning that shall be comforted. Blessed are those whose mourning? As a spirit taught spirit formed morning like that of christ.

For we will, most certainly Be comforted. And that's comforting in itself, isn't it? To know that the cause of the morning will want to be completely eliminated. And that the blessedness will be. Forever blessed are the those who warn for they shall be comforted? Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

The they shall be comforted. Remember is future. One of the things we noticed in verse 3, Was that there's is the kingdom of heaven was present. But now that verse 4 has Uh, brought into focus. The last day, the great day. In which sorrow will be banished and suffering will be banished and sin will be banished and death itself will be banished.

And it will be blessed. Are those who do not mourn for they have been comforted on that day. And those who did not groan and long for that day, they will begin an eternity of morning. An eternity of grieving, And anguish. On that day. But on that day, Those who have been meek.

Will inherit the earth. Those who have not striven. For their own name. For their own power. Those who have been humbled under the lord jesus christ. Those who have. Left off as conscientious objectors. From the perpetual conflict that psalmed to describes. Bluster. The meek. Those who do not. Um, Plot and vain and rage.

And try to assert themselves. But if humbled themselves under the mighty hand of god, they will find themselves lifted up. In this world, in order to advance yourself. One of the things that is most needful is ambition. Pride self-seeking. But among those who belong to the lord jesus christ.

The.

Not virtue. The value is inverted. You're not value self-advancement. We value self-sacrifice. We don't value selfishness. We value selflessness. We value humility. We have no confidence in ourselves. Our confidence is in the lord. Which itself is a steady or happier. Unassailable confidence. So it's not that the believer lacks confidence, it's just Not in himself.

But it will be on that last day. Where the first are made last, and the last are made first. And those who have suffered together with him for a little while. Come to be glorified together with him and inherit together with him and behold. Everything belongs to him by right of inheritance.

And the things that the nations raged for and the kings and peoples plotted for Will be suddenly. All at once. Given to those who are in christ. Blessed for the meek for they shall inherit the earth. You know, i have to strive for it. It's bequeathed upon them. All things are yours.

If you are christs. So that Even those who seem to have and rule them. Cannot do anything but that by which it comes to be yours at the last. And not in the lousy condition. In which the wicked seemed for a time to possess it. But recreated and perfected and you heavens a new earth.

So it's not just blast or the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed to the meek for they shall inherit an earth. That is as it ought to be. That is no longer worth mourning over. How great is the happiness then? Of those who belong to jesus. Although they do more than for a little while.

And they are lowly. In this life, and in this age, Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted? Blaster. The meek for racial inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger? And thirst. For righteousness. For they shall be filled.

Everyone is hungry and thirsty for something. And you may be hungry and thirsty for the things that the nation seek after. Food. Clothing. Our examples that we're going to have. In the following chapters. Pleasure. Entertainment. This team of others. Power. The ability to control others. The ability to live, according to your own will.

To get what you want when you want it. We have an entire culture that's built. On getting what we want when we want it. But hundreds of millions, are enslaved by those who deliver it to them.

But there is a hunger in a thirst. That replaces these When the spirit, lays hold of us. When he shows us our poverty in christ's wealth and verse 3. When he makes us to mourn over. The rest of creation and ourselves, not being what we ought to be. When he gives us humility and lowliness.

He makes us hunger and thirst. For that righteousness that will dwell in the new heavens and the new earth. That righteousness that we will participate in. When we

finally have the holiness. That was requisite. That was necessary to see the lord when he who has begun the work. Will finally have finished his work in us.

When we come into the fullness of our adoption, not just conformity to christ's spiritually. But even the redemption of our bodies, And there will be righteousness in the rest of The new heavens and the new earth. That's what peter how peter describes the second peter three verse 13 and you heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells Because the devil and all his angels and all the reprobate.

They will have been banished. Oh, they will exist forever. The only thing that they will know. However, is the presence of the lord. And the destruction and the fury. That comes from the intensity of god's holiness. Which they have hated into, which they will be opposed forever. And it will be opposed to them.

But in the new heavens, in the new earth, Righteousness, will dwell. Never again, will you sin? And never again, will you be sinned against?

So blessed. Are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness? Not just for, they shall be fed. Praise god, he does that throughout this life. He grows us more and more and conformity to christ. He works out to the righteous character of the righteous one, who is already our righteousness before, god?

He works it out in us. And it is so satisfying to know him. To be known by him. To be loved by him and to know his love for us and to love him more and more. To experience the good fruits that come out in our lives, our relationships etc.

By walking more and more in righteousness. But that's just being fed. And the last day we shall be filled. So, Yes. There's morning and groaning and longing. And things are not as they ought to be and they are not always pleasant. But we are blessed already. In the knowledge of him and the increasing experience.

Of that perfect. Blessedness, that will come at the last day.

The lord give to you my dear children, not that you would never mourn but that you would mourn over the right things. May he give to you a meekness. That is not merely self-deprecation. But a humbling yourself under the mighty hand of god because, you know that one who is united to christ cannot but be lifted up.

May he give you hunger and thirst. But for the right thing, For your own righteousness. And for the banishing of all other wickedness as well, May he give you the blessedness of one who belongs to christ. And let's pray. Her gracious gardener. Heavenly father, We thank you for your word, which Speaks, so plainly to us and holds out.

The actual nature of our blessedness. Last, we should. Look for a different blessedness. And not only be disappointed, but miss out on. That which genuinely is. And so we pray for the help of your spirit. That he would bring home to. Our hearts, the happiness of belonging to christ.

And the certainty that all of these longings will be filled. Don't let us, we ask. Live in such a way that fails. To long for what christ belongs for. But keep making us more and more like him. We ask in his name, Amen.