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**"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."**

*(5:4, The Message)*

# Grief's Consolation

Blessed Living

The meek man...  
knows well that  
the world will never  
see him as  
God sees him  
and he has stopped caring.

(A.W. Tozer)

## Bad Advice

The world with all its tinselled charm would convince us that grief is something from which we should flee. The counsel of the world is to flee any and all discomfort, unpleasantness, sorrow and pain, hard times or trials.

The world says that anything unpleasant is bad, but Jesus says that everything in the hands of God is good—even when it is unpleasant.

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

(Matthew 5:11-12)

## Blessed Assurance

There is, however, another kind of mourning. When a member of the family dies, we mourn; when tragedy strikes either ourselves or someone we love, we grieve. The believer can be considered fortunate (blessed) because in times of sorrow, there is comfort found in the arms of the Lord.

But there is yet another type of mourning—grief over sin.

For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances; I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.

(2 Corinthians 12:20-21)

A person who, as in the first Beatitude, acknowledges his or her dependence on God, will be grieved over the existence of sin—sin either personal or corporate. Those sensitive to the cloying smog of sin will be found on their knees, and in that hallowed posture will find consolation in their grief.

An Armenian arguing with a Calvinist remarked, "If I believed your doctrine and were sure that I was a converted man, I would take my fill of sin."

"How much sin," replied the godly Calvinist, "do you think it would take to fill a true Christian to his own satisfaction?" Here he hit the nail on the head. "How can we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?" A truly converted person hates sin with all his heart, and even if he could sin without suffering for it, it would be misery enough to him to sin at all.

(Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

# Superiority

## A Mixed Message

God the Father knew that we would need the help of a visual aid. He knew that we would need help with some of the concepts that would be part of His new-covenant Kingdom.

So He sent Jesus.

The concept of Christ-like humility and gentleness is difficult to understand in the context of contemporary culture—just as it was in the culture of first century Israel.

We live in a time of the “art of the deal,” a time in which strength through deceit is lauded, a time when “looking out for number one” has become a worldwide religion. In our time the gospel of brash self-sufficiency is preached from the school room, the seat of government, even the pulpit.

In the world of men we find nothing approaching the virtues of which Jesus spoke in the opening words of the famous Sermon on the Mount. Instead of poverty of spirit we find the rankest kind of pride; instead of mourners we find pleasure seekers; instead of meekness, arrogance; instead of hunger after righteousness we hear men saying, “I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing”; instead of mercy we find cruelty; instead of purity of heart, corrupt imaginings; instead of peacemakers we find men quarrelsome and resentful; instead of rejoicing in mistreatment we find them fighting back with every weapon at their command. Of this kind of moral stuff civilized society is composed. The atmosphere is charged with it; we breathe it with every breath and drink it with our mother’s milk. Culture and education refine these things slightly but leave them basically untouched. A whole world of literature has been created to justify this kind of life as the only norm alone. And this is the more to be wondered at seeing that these are the evils which make life the bitter struggle it is for all of us. All our heartaches and a great many of our physical ills spring directly out of our sins. Pride, arrogance, resentfulness, evil imaginings, malice, greed: these are the sources of more human pain than all the diseases that ever afflicted mortal flesh.

(Tozer)

## Clarity

So it’s not surprising that we would need help in the person of Christ to grasp a concept so foreign to our nature. We must look to the example of His life for a clear illustration of what it means to be truly meek.

Jesus took many opportunities to teach His disciples the idea of humility,

**They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, “What were you discussing on the way?” But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest. Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”**

(Mark 9:33-35)

through on-hand illustrations,

**Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, “Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.”**

(Mark 9:36-37)

as well as being an example Himself when it appeared that His reputation was being challenged by strangers:

**John said to Him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to prevent him because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not hinder him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is for us. For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.”**

(Mark 9:38-41)

The wily executive, treading upon the backs of others on his way up the corporate ladder, may become rich; the duplicitous politician may acquire great power; the crafty, morally bankrupt celebrity may gain

**“You’re blessed when  
you’re content with  
just who you are—  
no more, no less.  
That’s the moment  
you find yourselves  
proud owners of  
everything that  
can’t be bought.”  
(5:5 The Message)**

The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather he may be in his moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God’s estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and helpless as God has declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto. He knows well that the world will never see him as God sees him and he has stopped caring. He rests perfectly content to allow God to place His own values. He will be patient to wait for the day when everything will get its own price tag and real worth will come into its own. Then the righteous shall shine forth in the Kingdom of their Father. He is willing to wait for that day.

(Tozer)

worldwide fame. But it is the meek—the one gently resting in the superior strength of Christ—that will inherit the Lord’s dominion over the earth.