

Blessed are those who Mourn: March 26th, 2006
Questions for Small Group/Sunday School class Group

1. Why would you think we can know a person's character by what they laugh at and what makes them weep?
2. King David experienced grief when his son Absalom was slain as recorded in II Samuel 18:33. If you study this passage you will find that Absalom's death was a part of the payment that David made because of his adultery with Bathsheba. Do you feel God still works this way in our lives today? Explain.
3. David's sin with Bathsheba caused her husband's death and a child's death. For all those years David mourned because of his sin. Read II Samuel 19:6 and see what the Priest Joab had to say to King David.
4. The sorrows of life do not create problems, they reveal them. Absalom's death and David's unnatural mourning that kept him from acting like a king, revealed to the world that David had not been in control of his own family and that his own sin had found him out.
5. Instead of trying to atone for his own sins, David should have trusted God for the forgiveness that he needed. This is what he did when he confessed his sin of adultery, and God then graciously forgave him. Read Psalm 51:16-17
6. The main thrust of this beatitude is Supernatural Sorrow. Jesus is talking about repentance of sin, and that is the result of the supernatural working of God in your life. Read II Corinthians 7:10
7. What is the comparison between godly repentance and worldly sorrow?
8. The logical thing for a person to do when he sees his own spiritual need is to admit it and then turn to God for what they need. The person who is sincerely poor in spirit will mourn over himself and his sins, and through this mourning they will experience the comfort of God.
9. The thing we must distinguish from is repentance and regret.
10. Read Psalm 38:18 "For I will declare my iniquity (sin); I will be sorry for my sin." Compare this with James 5:14-16 What do you see James saying that we need to do here?
11. Does God expect His own children to repent? II Corinthians 7:9
12. There are two extremes to avoid when it comes to dealing with our sins: being too easy on ourselves and being too hard on ourselves. Either extreme will cost us the enjoyment of the Kingdom. What do you think this means?
13. King Saul was too easy on his sins and he lost his crown; and David was too hard on himself at the death of Absalom, and he almost lost his crown. As Christians we must be willing even in the sanctified life to repent of any sins immediately with a contrite heart, renewing our relationship with God. Psalm 51:17 II Samuel 12:13

14. We repent not only of what we do and what we are, but we also mourn over what sin does in this world. Jeremiah wept over the sins of his people. Paul wept over the churches he ministered to. Read Romans 8:22-23
15. Our Lord was *“a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.”* Isaiah 53:3 That Jesus Christ was the Man of Sorrows suggests that, as we experience true mourning for sin, we become more like Christ. Can you explain what that might mean to you?
16. Some day all tears will be gone. When will this be and what will it be like? Read Matthew 8:12 Revelation 21:4