

SERIES: THE ROAD TO RECOVERY  
TITLE: "GETTING HELP...THE HOPE CHOICE"

Pastor Joel Spiridigliozzi / October 11, 2009

Audio Message available at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio/>

**Text:** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"  
(Matthew 5:4).

### **I. "HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO MOURN..." (v. 4a)**

Mourning in the Old Testament:

- A. Ezra's **Confession** (10:1,2)
- B. Nehemiah's **Prayer** (1:4-7)

Mourning in the New Testament:

- A. Jesus Anointed by a **Sinful** Woman (Luke 7:44-47)
- B. Parable of the Tax Collector & Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14)
- C. The Apostle Paul as a '**wretched man**' (Romans 7:21-25)
- D. James' Exhortation (James 4:7-12)

What do we mourn?

- 1. We mourn our **own** sin
- 2. We mourn the sins of **others**

### **II. "...FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED" (v. 4b)**

"To all who mourn in Israel, he will give beauty for ashes..." (Isa. 61:3)

God uses 3 denial busters to get our attention:

- Crisis:** God uses the pain of an expected crisis to shatter our denial.
- Confrontation:** God can also use the people in our lives who care for us – people who care enough to say, 'You're blowing it.'
- Catastrophe:** When the bottom falls out – physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, and relationally.

The TRUTH is:

God **Exists**  
**You** Matter to Him

God has the **power** to change you and your situation.  
*"Sometimes God changes you; sometimes He changes your situation; Sometimes He changes both."*

*"When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you" (Isaiah 43:2).*

*"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken" (Psalm 34:17-20).*

It is in our mourning where we meet **Christ**. Having seen his utter sinfulness and hopelessness, he looks for a Saviour, and he finds Him in Christ.

**Sorrow** leads to joy, and without the sorrow there is no joy.

A deep understanding of sin, a high view of **joy**, and the two together produce this blessed, happy man and woman who mourns, and who at the same time is comforted.