

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT – MATTHEW 5-7

## The 2nd and 3rd Beatitudes: Happiness to the Mourners and Meek

### Matthew 5:4-5

Faith Church of Linden

By Daniel Patz on March 29, 2026

*The following notes are a draft of my sermon. These are not my pulpit notes or a manuscript I use to preach with but something I type up before writing out my “pulpit notes”. I hope they are helpful.*

It is Palm Sunday – the week before Easter...the beginning of Holy Week. Jesus said he was going to Jerusalem and that he would be delivered over to the priests and scribes, and that they would condemn him to death and deliver him to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and that he would be raised on the third day.

He rides into Jerusalem as a king – but a different kind of kind. He tells his disciples to get him a donkey and in Matthew 21 it says that it was to fulfill what the prophet wrote about:

**Matthew 21:5-10** (5) “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’” (6) The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. (7) They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. (8) Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. (9) And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (10) And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?”

A KING – the King of Kings – coming to you, humble...can I say, Meek?

In Luke’s Gospel he does this in the midst of these events:

**Luke 19:41-44** And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, (42) saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. (43) For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side (44) and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

Jesus the king – meek and ready to be crucified – weeping/mourning over the city of God and her people who have rejected God and were swallowed by their sins.

## Introduction

- Quick recap: Last week we saw “Blessed are the poor in spirit” — those who, by the Holy Spirit, gain a true awareness of their deep spiritual poverty in God’s presence. They see themselves exactly as God sees them.
- Promise – “theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Only the poor in spirit are part of God’s kingdom – only those who are poor in spirit are saved and will experience the eternal Kingdom of God and only those will enjoy and experience it now. Take heart – you find yourself feeling like a spiritual loser and deeply convicted by sin – your not far off!
- I want to look at the next two Beatitudes. The connecting thread (Sinclair Ferguson): “All three of these Beatitudes recognize that **what we are in the presence of God is what we are — no more, no less.**”

### Matthew 5:3-5 (ESV)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

### Blessed Are Those Who Mourn (Matthew 5:4)

- What does he commend and what does he promise?
  - What does he mean by mourn? Mourn about what?
  - How will they be comforted? How are they blessed?
- Counter-cultural: The world sees mourning as weakness; Jesus declares it blessed. Happy are the mourners!

#### What does he mean?

Happy are those who grieve and mourn (and weep).

What do they mourn over? They mourn over their own sin.

To mourn here is to be grieved over, ashamed of, humbled by, and loathing your own sin because of its offense to God.

I hope you see the connection between the first and second Beatitude. You see how important the first beatitude was – poverty of spirit. The poor in spirit have a spiritual understanding of their own sinfulness and emptiness in themselves. They are convicted that they have sinned against a holy God and they mourn.

- A woman may as well expect to have a child without pain as one can have repentance without sorrow. If anyone can believe without doubting, be suspicious of his faith; and if anyone can repent without sorrow, be suspicious of his repentance. (Watson)

Psalms 51:17 ESV The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

- False vs. true mourning (Thomas Watson): Carnal mourning weeps over lost possessions or the inability to satisfy lusts, but has no tears for the crucified Christ. **True mourning** starts with our own sin (flowing from poverty of spirit) and then grieves the sins of others.
- Not talking about a melancholy or depressed spirit
- What about sin do we grieve over? Three things true mourning understands (Watson – keep numbered and punchy):
  - Sin brings us into opposition and enmity with God.
  - Sin is one of the highest expressions of ingratitude toward God.
  - Sin is a great privation — it robs us of our true good.
- Mourning for our sin and others: We mourn our own sin first, then the sin and suffering in our families, church, nation, and world.
  - Jesus was an example of this – while he had no sin, he mourned over Jerusalem and their rebellion. He mourned at Lazarus’ tomb – why – because of the sin and wickedness that had brought about death. God’s people are so realistic and sensitive to the misery around us and we cry out to God and we grieve.
  - This mourning is a grief that cares about God and His name
- In Luke’s Gospel we have another section of Beatitudes where Jesus says the same thing but in a different way with some additional angles to it:
  - Luke 6:25 ESV “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

- Luke 6:21 ESV “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

The world tells us to forget about all of this mourning – unless it disguises it as woke.

We should grieve and mourn over true racism, abuse, injustices, - for the glory of God and based on the law of God and the authority of Jesus Christ.

### **The Promise – They Shall Be Comforted!**

- The promise: Those who mourn receive **true comfort** — repentance, forgiveness, and gospel joy. **Psalms 130:1-4** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! (2) O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! (3) If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? (4) But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
- Watson: The penitent has a wet planting season but a delicious harvest.
  - Repentance breaks the abscess of sin, and then the soul can rest easy.
  - The way God troubles the soul for sin is like the way the angel troubled the pool (John 5:4), which made way for healing. (Watson)
- Not all sorrow is true repentance. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 ESV As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. (10) For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
- Some day all tear will be wiped away. He will turn our mourning into joy and laughter!
- Key truth: No one comes to Christ without conviction and mourning. This is the necessary step after seeing our spiritual poverty.

Do you grieve over your sin

### **Blessed Are the Meek (Matthew 5:5)**

#### **What does it mean to be meek?**

- Definition (Martyn Lloyd-Jones & Thomas Watson): Meekness is a true view of ourselves that shapes our attitudes and conduct toward others.

It is not weakness — it is God-given strength that enables us to submit to God in every circumstance and with every difficult person.

- Toward God: Full submission to His will and flexibility to His Word.
- Toward others: We bear injuries, forgive injuries, and return good for evil.
- Heart of meekness “A meek man is no longer sensitive about himself... ‘I’m finished with myself, my rights, and my desserts.’” The meek person is amazed that God and others treat him as well as they do. He refuses to retaliate and remains patient, teachable, and not wise in his own eyes.
- Three biblical examples of meekness:
  1. **Moses** — called “the meekest man on the face of the earth.” **Numbers 12:3 (ESV)** “Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.” When Miriam and Aaron attacked him personally, he did not defend himself or retaliate. He quietly let God vindicate him and repeatedly interceded for the grumbling Israelites even when they rebelled against him. His patience towards the people Israel and his intercession for them is an example
  2. **David** — Psalm 131 shows his meek heart toward God: **Psalm 131:1-2 (ESV)** “O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.” In practice, David twice refused to kill King Saul when he had the chance (see 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26), choosing instead to leave vengeance in God’s hands. He had others attack him on the road when he fled Absalom and he would not kill them – perhaps God has sent them.
  3. **Jesus** — the perfect example. He invites us personally: **Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)** “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

### How do the meek inherit the earth?

- The promise:

“They shall inherit the earth.” Future: They will reign with Christ.

Present: The meek are the most contented people on earth. Already low in the best sense, they entrust everything to the God of providence and feast on whatever He brings — even suffering. In Christ they already possess everything.

## Palm Sunday Connection

- On this Palm Sunday we look to our Savior who says to His people – The Kingdom of God are for the poor in spirit...they know they are poor spiritual and have come to me for supply. They have mourned over their sins and they find comfort in my forgiveness, mercy, and help. They mourn over the wickedness and misery around them and put their home in Christ...they know they deserve no good thing and are amazed that God would show them such mercy. Towards others they show love and forgiveness...they are not provoked but pour out kindness.
- Jesus came and led the way – resolute to lay His life down in obedience to the Father – surrendering his rights – he meekly laid down His life for us!

## Conclusion & Application (6-8 min)

1. **Am I really seeing myself more and more as God sees me** — honestly acknowledging my spiritual poverty and desperate need for grace?
2. **Do I truly mourn over sin — my own sin first, and then the sins and suffering of others — for God’s sake and for His glory?**
3. **Am I growing in genuine meekness toward others** — seeing them in light of my own relationship with God and my unworthiness, becoming amazed that God and others treat me as well as they do, and therefore becoming less defensive, more patient, quicker to forgive, slower to retaliate, and more ready to serve and do good even when it costs me?
4. **Am I living in the joyful hope of the promises Jesus gives** — that the poor in spirit receive the kingdom of heaven, those who mourn receive true comfort, and the meek will inherit the earth?

The same gentle, weeping King who rode the donkey today says to you, “Come to me... learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.” True comfort and the inheritance of the earth are found only in Him.

As we sing next, let these words from the Heidelberg Catechism fill your heart: “What is your only comfort in life and in death? That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.”

May the comfort promised to those who mourn become your living reality today.