

The background of the slide is a dark, almost black, textured surface that resembles heavy fabric or a coarse knit material. The texture is vertical and slightly uneven, with subtle variations in tone and shadow that give it a three-dimensional appearance. The overall effect is somber and contemplative, fitting the theme of mourning.

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

Matthew 5:4 - “Blessed are those who
mourn, For they shall be comforted.”

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

- Mourning over one of two things:
 - Either those who are afflicted with the loss of friends or possessions are blessed
 - Or those who mourn over sin are blessed
- As Christ came to preach repentance, to teach us to mourn over our sins and forsake them, it is likely He meant the second. It is the deeper and more important meaning of the two
 - 2Cor. 7:10 - “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

- Only the gospel can give true comfort to those in affliction
 - Isa. 61:1-3 - “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

- All other sources of consolation do not reach the deep sorrows of the soul. They do not point to the true sources of comfort:
- God the Father
 - 2Cor. 1:3-4 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

- Jesus Christ, His Son

- Matt. 11:28-30 - “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

- The Holy Spirit
 - John 14:26 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”
- And our hope of heaven
 - Rev. 21:4 - “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

- Mourning is a good thing in the right place
 - Ecc. 3:4 - “A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance”
- “Tears shed for another person are not a sign of weakness. They are a sign of a pure heart.” (José N. Harris, Mi Vida)
- “There need not be a purpose to a person's death, other than that they have lived the length of their days on this Earth and now begin the longer part of their existence.” (Brian M. Holmes, What Are You Crying About? Defeating Grief for Christians)

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

- “Grieving needs space, and it needs so much time. And it needs to be done; it cannot be trodden round or not looked in the eye.” (Susan Fletcher)
- “I will not say: do not weep; for not all tears are an evil.” (J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King*)
- “The darker the night, the brighter the stars, The deeper the grief, the closer is God!” (Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*)

What Does It Mean To Mourn?

- Natural mourning or sorrow
 - Gen. 23:1-3 - “Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. 2 So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. 3 Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth”

What Does It Mean To Mourn?

- Unnatural sorrow
 - 2Sam. 18:33 - “Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: O my son Absalom-my son, my son Absalom-if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!”
 - 2Sam. 19:1-8

What Does It Mean To Mourn?

- Spiritual mourning
 - Isa. 6:1-3 - “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”
 - Job 42:5-6 - “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.”

What Does It Mean To Mourn?

- Dan. 9:4-8 - “And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. 6 Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. 7 O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day-to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. 8 O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.”

What Does It Mean To Mourn?

- What is the cause of their mourning?
 - Isa. 59:1-2 - “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death”

Mourning Manifested In The Life Of Jesus

- Isa. 53:3-4 - "He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted."
- John 11:33-35 - "Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, Where have you laid him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see. 35 Jesus wept."

Mourning Manifested In The Life Of Jesus

- Luke 19:41-44 - "Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Mourning Manifested In The Life Of Jesus

- Acts 5:31 - “Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”
- Eph. 1:7 - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

Mourning Is Not An Unending Condition

- Mourning is the beginning of faith
 - It causes us to honestly face our condition before God
 - It causes us to regret the sin that severed our relationship
 - It moves us to do something about our condition in sin
 - It moves us to turn to God for help to relieve the condition of sin

Mourning Is Not An Unending Condition

- Consider the role of mourning in the plan of salvation
- Repenting of our sins
 - 2Cor. 7:9-10 - “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

Mourning Is Not An Unending Condition

- Confessing our sins as stumbling Christians
 - James 5:16 - “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”
 - 1John 1:9-10 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

- Ecc. 7:2-4 - “Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.”