

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – January 23, 2022**

**Theme: The Beatitudes    Topic: Blessed are Those Who Mourn**

**Main Texts: Luke 23:39-43; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11**

**Key verse: Matthew 5:4 “God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5:4 (NLT)**

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**INTRODUCTION:** In his first letter to the church at Corinth, Apostle Paul rebuked the Corinthian Church sternly. He rebuked them for such issues like internal divisions and immoral sexual practices within the Christian community in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 5:1-12). Notwithstanding his fear that the letter would not be well received, he sent it anyway. He was therefore filled with joy when he learnt from Titus that not only had the message been received, but that the painful truth of the message caused the people to repent and change their ways. This he referred to as ‘godly sorrow,’ which is the kind of sorrow that God wants us to have. Godly sorrow causes us no harm but brings us to genuine repentance from sin.

**1. Paul mentions 5-6 things that godly sorrow produced in the Corinthians. What are they? (1 Corinthians 7:11) (b) Paul contrasts godly sorrow with the ‘sorrow of the world’ (1 Corinthians 7:10). What does this kind of sorrow produce? How so? (c) What issues did the Corinthian church sorrow over? How would those apply to us today?**

Though most people, including believers are familiar with the saying that ‘it is better to go to the house of mourning than to a feast,’ yet the majority view and prayer sees good fortune as true blessedness. But Jesus said, “*Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted*” (Matthew 5:4). The Greek word ‘pentheo’ is what is translated as ‘mourn.’ And it means ‘I mourn, lament, feel guilt.’ It describes a grief so severe that it takes possession of a person. The closest example being the mourning over the death of a loved one. However, the loss of a loved one or any similar calamity does not seem to be all that Jesus had in mind in this statement. The Bible records several who mourned: Ezra mourned over the sins of his people (Ezra 10:6). Nehemiah mourned at the news that his beloved Jerusalem lay in ruins (Nehemiah 1:4). Jesus mourned over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-42). Apostle Paul mourned over his fellow Israelites (Romans 9:2-3).

**2. Read Ezra 10:6; Nehemiah 1:4; Luke 19:41-42; Romans 9:2-3. (a) What else might Jesus be referring to in speaking of the blessedness of those who mourn? (b) When you think of the prayers and testimonies which elicit the loudest ‘Amen,’ would you say believers today truly believe in the blessedness of those who mourn? (c) Considering the things which caused Ezra, Nehemiah, Jesus, and Apostle Paul to mourn, what do you think Jesus was referring to when He said, ‘*Blessed are those who mourn...*’?**

Without a significant loss, the mourning Jesus speaks of in Matthew 5:4 cannot happen. And as such, the blessedness which comes with that type of mourning will continue to elude believers. To properly understand why to mourn is to be blessed, one needs to identify and appreciate the thing of greatest value humanity has lost. This seems to be something one of the thieves recognized when he rebuked his fellow thief, “*Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? ...then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”*” (Luke 23:40-42 NLT)

**3. Jesus said, ‘God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.’ (Matthew 5:4 NLT) (a) Read Psalm 30:5; Proverbs 28:13; Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Luke 23:43. (a). Identify at least three blessings those who mourn can expect. (b) Paul confronted the Corinthian Church with specific sins. What two or three specific sins do you think the Church in Nigeria, including VFC, need to come to terms with and mourn? (c) Paul noted that the Corinthians had “done everything necessary to make things right” (2 Corinthians 7:11 NLT). What commitment will you make to the Lord regarding the sins mentioned in (3b) above to receive God’s promised comfort?**

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**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to mourn with godly sorrow when we sin against You so that we may be drawn to genuine repentance and obtain mercy, forgiveness, and salvation from You, In Jesus Name, Amen.