

The Comfort of Caring

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

- Matthew 5:4

Review: Blessed Means...

Happiness vs. Blessedness

- Happiness is to settle for good feelings dependent on our circumstances.
- Blessedness is God giving us an inner quality of contentment regarding life.
- Jesus gives eight ways to receive this blessedness in the Beatitudes.

Beatitude # 1

- Instead of “*happy are the rich*”, Jesus said “*blessed are the poor*”.
 - By counting ourselves as spiritually impoverished.
 - By counting everything as God’s, we’re His stewards.

Blessed Are Those Who...

1. Find comfort through confession.

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

¹⁰*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

¹²*Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”*

- Psalm 51:1-2,10,12

Response: My prayer of confession

Blessed Are Those Who...

2. Find comfort in their sorrow.

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another comforter to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.”

- John 14:15,16

Comforter (παράκλητε) – walk and talk alongside, with strength

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.”

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13

Response: A time when the Holy Spirit really comforted me when I was hurting...

3. Find comfort in God’s hand, and pass it on.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:3,4

Response: A friend who needs my encouragement this week is...

Further Application Project:

1. God, one place where I am hurting right now and need your comfort is...

Please read some of these passages and ask for God’s comfort: Psalms 27, 30, 102, Isaiah 51, John 14, 2 Corinthians 1

2. In what ways do I show others that I really care?
3. In what ways do we as a church show that we care about one another?

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