

**Matthew 5:4(NKJV) “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”**

*\*WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MOURN? When we see ourselves in the light of the Lord, it creates brokenness in our hearts and weeping over our sinfulness. When we see this truth, it causes us to be repentant. And when we mourn over our sin, Jesus promises to comfort us:*

**Joel 2:12-13 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup>“Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me (*repent*) with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”<sup>13</sup> So rend your heart, and not your garments (*true repentance*); Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.**

*\*Mourning that produces Godly sorrow for your sin against God:*

**2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (AMP) <sup>10a</sup> For godly sorrow that is in accord with *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation; <sup>b</sup> but worldly sorrow; the hopeless sorrow of those who do not believe produces death. <sup>11</sup> For you can look back and see what an earnestness *and* authentic concern this godly sorrow has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves against charges that you tolerate sin, what indignation at sin, what fear of offending God, what longing for righteousness and justice, what passion to do what is right, what readiness to punish those who sin and those who tolerate sin! At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in the matter.**

*1.) In vs 10a; What does Godly sorrow produce?*

*2.) In vs 10a; What does Godly sorrow lead to?*

*3.) In vs 10b; What does worldly sorrow produce and lead to?*

*4.) In vs 11; What is the evidence given of true Godly sorrow?*

*5.) Which of the twelve apostles comes to mind in regards to having a worldly sorrow for His offense against Jesus Christ? What was the result of his worldly sorrow?*

7.) Which of the twelve apostles comes to mind in regards to having a Godly sorrow for His offense against Jesus Christ? What was the result of his Godly sorrow?

*\*As you mourn over the fact that you have no strength, no ability or power, you feel helpless, and that causes you to cry out to God. In your state of mourning, you'll begin to experience the glorious power of God, doing in your life what you could not possibly do for yourself. Mourning over your sin causes you to confess your sin. And confession of sin is critical for victory!*

**James 4:8-10 (AMP)** <sup>8a</sup> **Come close to God with a contrite heart and He will come close to you.** <sup>b</sup>**Wash your hands, you sinners; and purify your unfaithful hearts, you double-minded people.** <sup>9</sup> **Be miserable and grieve and weep over your sin. Let your foolish laughter be turned to mourning and your reckless joy to gloom.** <sup>10 a</sup>  
**Humble yourselves with an attitude of repentance and insignificance in the presence of the Lord,** <sup>b</sup> **and He will exalt you He will lift you up, He will give you purpose.**

1.) *In vs.8a; What are the instructions regarding the state of your heart in coming close to/approaching God?*

2.) *In vs.8b; What are the further instructions of preparation coming close to /approaching God?*

3.) *In vs.8b; What are those instructed in vs.8 identified as?*

4.) *In vs.9; What are the instructions given to us in regards to the state of our hearts, mind and behavior towards our sin?*

5.) *In vs.10a; What are the instructions given regarding our attitude in the presence of The Lord?*

6.) *In vs.10b; If we follow the instructions given regarding our attitude in the presence of The Lord, what will God do?*

*\*FAILURE TO CONFESS OUR SIN; When we fail to confess our sins to the Lord, one of two things happens: 1.) We begin to think we are without a sinful nature and become self-righteous, or 2.) We harden our hearts to the conviction of God's Holy Spirit, refusing His offer to help us. This will bring our relationship with God to a standstill.*

**1 John 1:8-10 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him (God) a liar, and His (God's) word is not in us.

*1.) In vs.8; What are the 2 results of those who say they have no sin?*

*2.) What truth is not in those who say they have no sin?*

*3.) In vs.10; What are the 2 results of those who say they have not sinned?*

*4.) In vs.9; What are the 2 results of those who confess their sins?*

**Proverbs 28:13(NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

*1.) What is the result of unconfessed sin in this verse?*

*2.) What is the result of confessed sin in this verse?*

*3.) What does forsake mean?*

**Psalms 32:1-5 (NKJV)** Blessed *is he* whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.<sup>2</sup> Blessed *is the man* to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is no deceit.*<sup>3</sup> When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.<sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. *Selah* <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

*1.) What are the benefits of confessed sin before The Lord?*

2.) *What are the pitfalls of unconfessed sin?*

*\*Unconfessed sin effects our personal relationship and fellowship with God. If we do not confess our sins, we break our fellowship with God. The following Scripture passages teach us about unrepented sin and why it is mandatory to confess our sins:*

**Psalm 38:3-4 (AMP)** <sup>3</sup> **There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your (God`s) indignation; There is no health in my bones because of my sin.**<sup>4</sup> **For my iniquities have gone over my head like the waves of a flood; As a heavy burden they weigh too much for me.**

1.) *What are the effects/results of continuing on in unconfessed sins in these verses?*

**Psalm 66:18 (AMP)** <sup>18</sup> **If I regard sin *and* baseness in my heart; that is, if I know it is there and do nothing about it, The Lord will not hear me;**

1.) *What is the effect/result of continuing on in unconfessed sins in this verse?*

**Psalm 31:10 (AMP)** **For my life is spent with sorrow And my years with sighing; My strength has failed because of my iniquity, And even my body has wasted away.**

1.) *What are the effects/results of continuing on in unconfessed sins in these verses?*

*\*Examples of the result of God`s people continuing to live in unconfessed, unrepented sin:*

**Ezekiel 39:23-24 (NKJV)** <sup>23</sup> **The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. <sup>24</sup> According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them.” ’**

1.) *What are the effects/results of continuing on in unconfessed sins in these verses?*

**Isaiah 64:5-7 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, Who remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned. In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved.<sup>6</sup> But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.<sup>7</sup> And *there is* no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities.

1.) *What are the effects/results of continuing on in unconfessed sins in these verses?*

**Isaiah 59:1-2 (NKJV)** Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

1.) *What are the effects/results of continuing on in unconfessed sins in these verses?*

**Jeremiah 5:23-25 (NKJV)** <sup>23</sup> But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed. <sup>24</sup> They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest." <sup>25</sup> Your iniquities have turned these *things* away, And your sins have withheld good from you.

1.) *What are the things turned away and withheld because of sin in these verses?*

*\*The progressive destruction of living in unconfessed sin:*

**Isaiah 1:4-6 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.<sup>5</sup> Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints.<sup>6</sup> From the sole of the foot even

to the head, *There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.*

1.) *What is the end result of continuing on in unconfessed sins in these verses?*

*\*When we confess our sins, two wonderful things take place. First, God forgives us our sins; and secondly, He restores and reconciles our fellowship with Him:*

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways/repent, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal/restore their land.**

1.) *What are the 4 steps of instruction given to receive God`s forgiveness and healing/restoration?*

*\*The more we study God`s Word, the more we become aware of what He desires in our daily lives. His Word also reveals our sin nature and makes it clear how to confess and repent:*

**Hebrews 4:12 (Expanded Bible) <sup>12</sup> For God`s word is alive and working; active; powerful; effective and is sharper than a double-edged sword. It cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined, to the center of our joints and bones penetrates until it divides even soul and spirit, joints and marrow. And it judges and discerns the thoughts, ideas, desires, motives, attitudes and intentions in our hearts.**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (AMP) <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed given by divine inspiration and is profitable for instruction, for conviction of sin, for correction of error and restoration to obedience, for training in righteousness; learning to live in conformity to God`s will, both publicly and privately, behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be complete *and* proficient, outfitted *and* thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

1.) *What is God`s Word profitable for?*

2.) *What can we gain or benefit from reading and following God's Word?*

**Psalm 19:7-11(NKJV)** <sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring *and* refreshing the soul; The statutes of the LORD are reliable *and* trustworthy, making wise the simple.<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.<sup>9</sup> The fear of The Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true, they are righteous altogether.<sup>10</sup> They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them Your servant is warned, reminded, illuminated, and instructed; In keeping them there is great reward.<sup>12</sup> Who can understand his errors or omissions? Acquit me of hidden unconscious, unintended *faults*.<sup>13</sup> Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous (deliberate, willful) *sins*; Let them not rule *and* have control over me. Then I will be blameless (complete), And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

*\*Practical application:*

**Psalm 119:9-11(NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> How can a young man/woman cleanse his/her way? By taking heed according to Your word.<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! <sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.