

# BLESSED ARE THE MOURNERS

Matthew 5:4

PAT NEMMERS

April 14, 2024

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What is your definition of “the good life”? Be honest, how much of your understanding of being “blessed” comes from Scripture, and how much comes from culture?
- Does sadness or mourning play a part in your concept of blessing? Why or why not?

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week’s passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat pointed us to the kind of mourning that brings comfort.**

### Context:

- How would you respond to this quote from Sunday’s message: To cry is human, but to lament is Christian. (Mark Vroegop in “Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy”)
- In the beatitudes, Jesus uses the idea of “mourning” to illustrate the kind of heartfelt, deep grief that comes along with the death of a loved one. In fact, the sorrow Jesus refers to is deeper than that - it is the grief that accompanies repentance. When was the last time you were deeply grieved by sin?

### What kind of mourning brings comfort?

1. The kind that takes a deeper look at yourself through God’s lens (Read Isaiah 64:6 and Zechariah 3:1-5a)
  - Using the two passages above, and others that you know, describe the way God feels about sin.
  - In one or two sentences, summarize your feelings about your own personal sin. Are there any differences between how you and God view your sin? Why do you think that’s true?
2. The kind that takes a personal look at your role in Jesus’ death
  - Look at the 1633 painting by the Dutch artist, Rembrandt, “The Raising of the Cross.” By placing himself at the crucifixion, Rembrandt is reminding his viewers of several biblical truths. As a group, brainstorm some of these truths.
  - What might change in your thoughts and actions if you genuinely believed that your own sin served as a murder weapon in the crucifixion of Jesus?

**The difference between *godly mourning* (Peter) and *godless mourning* (Judas) is this: One runs to Jesus, the other runs away from Him.**

***Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?***

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you will see your sin the way God does, and that you will respond with godly mourning.

