

January 11, 2024

The Lord wants you to live in His light.

Mt. 5:4 *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.* (NIV)

The term blessed is translated as one who is truly happy. This is not a transitory state, but a continual one. This attitude is used to describe the next few statements of Christ. In today's verse we see the term 'those who mourn.' We have all experienced times or even seasons of sadness. This emotion is just as important and joy. We learn much from understanding that there are times that we should mourn. We should mourn over the fallen nature of mankind. We should mourn over our disobedience and sin. We should mourn when those who have chosen to follow Christ, fall. This is an ability that God has given us so that we can see and feel the hurt in others and ourselves. The LORD experiences this sadness when He sees us willfully choosing to disobey Him and His principles. We also see people mourn when they lose a family member or friend. Some of the toughest times in our lives happen when someone that we love so much is physically taken away. It is significant to me that this very day, January 11th is my older sister's birthday. When I was six years old, our parents split up and my father took her with him, and my mom took me and my younger sister. For the next eight years of my life, I didn't get to see or even talk to my older sister. I wondered why the LORD would allow this to happen. I missed her so much. What I could not see is that God was working in our lives to grow us into His likeness. And one of the most memorable days in my life is when my Mom told me that my sister was coming to see us. She had taken a bus and we went to pick her up at the bus station. I will never forget that day! I cried. I laughed. And, I was certainly comforted.

This reminds me of one of my favorite Psalms: **30:5 *For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*** (NIV) Our God loves you and me and the whole world. He wants to meet your needs, strengthen your walk and be with you forever. He will supply all of your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus. With Him, we have a hope and a future. He is for you and He will stay with you. He will never leave you or forsake you.

Dear LORD, thank You that Your comfort is there for us daily. We are reminded of Your great love for us continually. We praise You LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen