I. Those in Christ's Kingdom _*mourn*_ — Eph 3:16-17; Matt 5:3; Gen 37:34; I Cor 15:32

A. The LORD _*favors*_ those who _*mourn*_ — Gen 4:5; I Kings 21:4; Heb 12:17; Num 14:1; Josh 7:6; I Sam 15:30, 35; II Cor 7:8-11a;

B. God-granted _*mourning*_ _*breaks*_ our _*hearts*_ — Gen 6:5-6; Heb 12:6, 11; Ps 78:40; Isa 63:10a; John 11:35; Luke 19:41-44; Luke 18:10-14; Ps 32:3-4; Ps 51:1-4, 14-17

II. King Jesus promises _*comfort*_ to those who _*mourn*_

A. He _*comes*_ _*alongside*_ the _*broken-hearted*_ when they _*come*_ to Him — John 14:15-18; I John 1:9; James 4:7-10; Hosea 6:1-2

B. One day, all _*mourning*_ will be _*over*_ — Rev 21:3-4

III. King Jesus is at _*home*_ in a _*soft*_ _*heart*_ — Isa 66:1-2

A. The Spirit _*works*_ to prepare a _*soft*_ _*place*_ for Him

B. When we _*listen*_ to the _*Spirit*_, we _*see*_, we _*grieve*_, and our hearts _*soften*_

Care Group Questions

"This Old Heart"
Text: Matthew 5:4

Dave Bechtel April 22, 2007

1. Do you have any experiences when you were in a house that wasn't "up to code"? (It could have been in a structural, legal sense, or, more likely, a house that was not very attractive for someone besides it's occupants to live in.) Care to share the details?
2. Review: what does "poor in spirit" mean (the first beatitude)? How does that connect with the statement "King Jesus prefers a poor house"?
3. What kind of mourning does Jesus have in mind in this second beatitude (5:4)? What other kinds of sorrow would probably not be included? (Can you give some illustrations of sorrows that are not the kind Jesus means?)
4. Why would God favor (bless) a certain kind of mourning? What makes a certain sorrow "God-approved"? What can it accomplish in someone's life? (see II Corinthians 7:8-10)
5. How does the second beatitude spiritually follow the first?
6. What is the promise that Jesus makes to those who mourn in a God-approved way? When does that promise become effective?
7. From the sermon, what are some things that the Spirit (the Comforter) does when we come to Him with our broken hearts? How does He take care of our guilt and shame? How does He heal our broken hearts?
8. If the first beatitude could be summed up by "Jesus prefers a clean (empty) house", fill in the blank for this second beatitude: "Jesus is at home in a _____ heart". What does the word you filled in look like in a heart?
9. How does the Spirit work in our lives to accomplish that kind of heart? What is our role in the process?
10. Personal: Share a specific instance from your recent past when you "mourned" in the spirit of this text? What was it about? What did you do about it?
11. Agree/Disagree: "To be saved, a person must mourn." (Explain your answer.)
12. How do you know personally when your heart is becoming hard or cold?

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