

I am Hurting---But God is working in my life

SCRIPTURE: Matt 5:4

Greek word used for mourn is the strongest word in the Greek language for mourn. Word which is used for mourning for the dead, a passionate lament for one who was loved. It is defined as the kind of grief which takes such hold of a person that it cannot be hid. Ache to the heart and tears to the eyes.

When things go well it is possible to live on the surface of things. Bible teaches that it is all right to be detached from things but never right to be detached from people.

Christianity begins with a sense of sin.----- the way to the joy of forgiveness is through the desperate sorrow of the broken heart.

Many times we ask “Why do bad things happen to good people???” I have faced people with that question many times throughout my pastorates. But it is the wrong question---it is one question that God never answers. Even when Jesus Cried out from the Cross ”My God, my God why have you forsaken me” God’s didn’t answer.

God never answers the WHY, because the person who asks “why” doesn’t really want an explanation-----he wants an argument!

Christianity isn’t a Pollyanna religion-----it doesn’t claim that bad things won’t happen to us. We are never told that if we live a good live we will escape sickness or tragedy.

As a pastor I deal with hurt and I have found that no two sorrows are the same and I have walked my way through a lot of human sorrow.

Over and over I have seen sorrow I have witnessed that God does comfort good people when bad things happen to them. Have also found that trouble never leaves us where it finds us.

Sorrow will change our tomorrow. But God inspires us to become better people and not bitter people.

God shows us the negative can be turned into a positive, a minus into a plus and that is one thing the cross is about. How do we find relief from grief----realize what you can do for yourself---realize what God can do for you.

A few weeks ago __David Boyd__ sang “It is no Secret what God can do”

When sorrow comes your way-----admit your sorrow-----then move on with your life.

One thing we must not do. Don’t Blame God! I don’t care if it was an auto accident, a disease---they are not brought about by God. These things are always caused by sin----now I didn’t say the sin of that person---of another person around them----but sin in the world. Sin brings

sorrow. We live in a world full of sin.

Following the Ten Commandments will result in spiritual health, mental health, and physical health! But following them will not protect us from all the sin around us----

You see in the beginning God decided to make mankind in His image. To make us into a decision-making creature, capable of discernment, judgment, evaluation, choice and decision.

Oh I am so glad!!-----When He did this He knew full well that this creature could turn against Him-----but lets look at the alternative---if He designed us so we could make no wrong decision---we would be nothing but a perfect, sinless, guiltless, error-free person---no not a person----a machine---a computer---NEVER, NEVER---I DON'T WANT TO BE A COMPUTER--
---a machine that cannot make decisions----but only do what is fed into me.

When God created us this way He created a potential sinner, but a potentially loving person as well.

Don't Blame God for your sorrow and Don't Blame Yourself

Grief always seems to be associated with guilt---but self-condemnation will solve no problem---it is a negative emotion that can cause havoc in your life.

When my wife died I could have said ---- I caused it---- she died of Leukemia -----no she died of treatment for Leukemia----and I permitted it---even encouraged it.

Mary's husband was in the hospital for a Hernia operation-----came home---had a blood clot---no doubt went to his heart---she thought there must be something she could have done-----no ----it happened.

Now those thoughts of blame were there-----but they were pushed aside---if we would have kept them---it would have ruined our lives and our witness for Jesus Christ.

I know a lady whose son died in a tragic accident----and it has ruined her life---her marriage---relationship with other children---people

When tragedy comes----Don't Blame God---Don't Blame yourself----Don't try to fix the blame---Fix the problem.

The real problem is your reaction to the problem----Allow the Holy Spirit to work in you---Allow Him to bring healing----He will help you to decide that this non-constructive sorrow mixed with self-pity has to stop.

When sorrow or loss comes it seems that we can only see what we have lost----and not what we have----I see so many people who mourn over the loss of a child---of a spouse---and it ruins their lives----their witness for Jesus Christ. Our vision is impaired---we can only see what we have lost----not what we have.

Like Peter when he got out of the boat to walk on water to Jesus and he took his eyes off Jesus and seen the big waves----we are so much like him. WE see the trouble---big waves---but can't see God in the midst of tragedy – waiting to put His arms around us and bring healing

When hurt and sorrow come---Mourn---but allow God to comfort you and bring you through it---and make you better—not bitter.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted-----if God is your friend---if Christ is your Savior.

God offers REAL comfort---no pity---He offers a tough love that turns us into sweeter and stronger persons---He gives us courage to go on.

And every good person who goes through bad times develops a greater sensitivity to other people and their sorrows-----"In love's service, only broken hearts will do." Good people turn scars into stars.

This is what God will do for us as we mourn-----when we lean on Him and let Him heal our hurts

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted----does not apply to any and all persons. The only ones who are comforted are those who allow God, His Holy Spirit and friends to minister to them.

The most difficult thing is to admit, is to accept it----admit the hurt---then move forward with God-----

People facing tragedy suddenly take a new look at their whole life. Their whole perspective changes. Some of the things they had thought were so precious don't seem to mean much anymore.

I see this in families---in marriages.

Have Mary come us and read what we shared with congregation.

A while after my wife died I went to Mary----asked---Mary you had a good marriage? She said yes it was. I said I feel married people don't really realize what ---- they need to cherish this time. What about you and I teach a class on marriage---to show people how to appreciate their spouse.

She said that sounds good-----so we prepared --- and later taught an 8 week class on marriage. Be prepared if you teach a class on marriage with a person you are not married to--- --Our own marriage is the result----but in reality our marriage was what God had planned for us.

VERN

There are many things that happen in life that we don't understand, we find no logical reason for them to be happening and feel that they shouldn't of happened. I know this is true for Mary in Jim's death

MARY

Yes, that is true---and I do want to thank the church for their support at the time of Jim's death and through these last three years.

I know the same is true for Vern in Lou's death

VERN

Yes, it is true that we don't understand but still feel God's love through his people and I too want to thank the church for your support at the time of Lou's death and over this last year.

These tragedies don't make sense---yet God has promised that He would take these tragedies and bring good out of them---even though that doesn't erase the tragedies.

MARY

As I was growing up I can remember my Grandmother Koelliker at times of tragedy would quote Romans 8:28---"All things work for the good of those who love the Lord" and I have clung to that verse the last three years, not knowing what kind of good could ever come from Jim's death.

VERN

Mary and I want to share that God has taken these tragedies and brought good from them. He has done this in her life and my life in that He has brought us together and through His love has given us a love for each other.

MARY

Out of the emptiness of our lives He has brought life and joy and hope and dreams of the future, all the blessing of His love have just poured out upon us in the last several months till our cups just run over.