

Shelton Park Church of God
from the Pastor's desk...

June 3, 2011

“BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN:”

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

In the past few months I have been with several families that have experienced grief due to a loss of a loved one. Our church has also just lost a dear saint in Sister Frieda Fitzpatrick who passed away this past Sunday. In my 12 years of Pastoring here at Shelton Park I have officiated more than 80 funerals and attended several others. Throughout my study and preparations for helping the families deal with their grief, I came across a verse that I have known all of my life, yet never realized its total impact. “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

Looking at the first phrase, we see that Christ stated that those that mourn are, “blessed.” What exactly does that word mean? It comes from a Greek word, “makarios,” which means, “fortunate, well off, and happy.” Is Christ really saying that those that mourn are fortunate? How could this be? And why do I feel unfortunate when I have lost someone so close to me?

The reasons are many yet very simple. It is a fortunate thing for us to be able to express our emotions and to be able to grieve and let out the frustrations of our life. It is a well-known fact that if we hold these feelings in, it will cause more problems in the long run. God gave us tears that we may shed them!

The other reason that it is fortunate for us to mourn is that we will be comforted. God is touched by the feelings of our infirmities. He is moved by our tears we shed. God sympathizes with our grief and knows how we feel. He gave us these emotions and He knows how to fix them and comfort them. Just think, if we never shed a tear, we would never know what it is like for God’s hand to reach down and wipe it away. I’m glad I have experienced grief that I might be able to experience God’s touch!

If you are going through a grief just know that God is there with you and He will comfort you and in that you are “blessed!”

Pastor Scott Isham