

Radiant Church, October 18, 2015
Mike Rydman

SOTM #2 - Matthew 5:2-3
A Disciple's Heart...Grieves over Sin

Scott Sauls Tweeted this week: "Truth without grace is bullying and aggressive. Grace without truth is co-dependent and enabling." I pray this morning you don't hear this as either...

Matthew 5:4 *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*

This is the second distinguishing mark of a true child of God. It is natural that once a man has acknowledged his broken condition (poor in spirit) before God that he would grieve over it.

The philosophy in our world is: Forget your troubles, turn your back upon them, do everything you can not to face them. Be as happy as you can.

Blame other people, blame unfair circumstances, blame the world

The seeking of fun experiences and pleasure, money, the multi-billion dollar media industry existing to entertain people, are all just an expression of the great aim of the world to get away from the idea of acknowledging and owning our own sin.

When we consider our own sin - we cast blame; we justify; we accept
When we consider the sin of other people and our world - we judge
and we condemn

Because acknowledging our own sin doesn't make us look or feel good

Charles Colson said, "If pastors preached on sin, many people would flee their church pews never to return."

Note these contrasting responses to sin in others, in the world:

Jonah 5:5 *Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. **Jonah 5:10** and the Lord said, You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?*

Jonah was more grieved over his shady plant dying than he was for Nineveh.

Luke 13:34 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children*

together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

Jesus pronounces you approved when are you ache over the sin in your life. When you are broken by the affects of sin on the world. Jesus says, be happy when you mourn because your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad because I am returning to wipe away every tear.

King David's cry to the Lord after his sin with Bathsheba **Psalm 51:1** *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.*

Another psalm writer's cry over the sin of his nation. **Psalm 119:136** *"My eyes shed tears because people do not keep your law."*

It may be that the failure of the Church to have a greater impact upon the lives of men and women in the world today is due entirely to the fact that our own life is not in order. There is nothing more tragic or short-sighted than the assumption, made by so many, that we, the Church are just fine, and all we have to do is evangelize the evil world outside.

It is a failure to understand the true nature of Christian joy. There is the double failure. There is not the real, deep conviction of sin as was once the case; and on the other hand there is this superficial conception of joy and happiness that is very different from what we find in the Bible.

Thus, a defective doctrine of sin and the shallow idea of joy produces a superficial kind of person and a very inadequate kind of Christian life.

And this is why the Church is written off as hypocritical is many people's eyes.

Now this is obviously extremely important, especially as regards the matter of evangelism. Is it not surprising that the Church in North America is failing in her mission if her dual conception of sin and joy are thus defective and inadequate?

It's almost like instead of wanting the absence of sin, we instead want to block out and have no awareness of our sin.

We think the worst thing any of us can feel is shame

This is what keeps a lot of counselors in business
The worst thing anyone else can do to us is offend us

Because here's the truth in all of us: we fear the unpleasant consequences of sin more than we do sin itself...it's not the deed, it's if we get caught.

There is one thing worse than sin; that is denial of sin, which makes forgiveness impossible because forgiveness will not be received

If poverty of spirit is intellectual, grief over sin is its emotional counterpart. And without grief over our own sin, we will never receive the comfort of forgiveness and salvation.

The basis for true comfort is forgiveness.

And the following basis for increasing and lasting comfort is our own changed lives.

This is the ongoing work of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in us.

We have got to get to asking the question, What is it in me that makes me behave like that? Why should I be irritable? Why am I always angry over someone or something? Why am I not able to control myself? Why do I harbor unkind, jealous and envious thoughts? What is it in me?

If your heart is prone to run, hide and cover up sin until you are miserable. Pray and ask the spirit to turn your worldly sorrow into a Godly sorrow. Step under the shower of his grace and be comforted because Jesus has already paid for it.

If you find yourself increasingly willing to surrender your sin at the foot of the cross of Jesus, rejoice. This is evidence that the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in your heart. Bring praise to God for bringing your heart to life.

Matthew 5:4 *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*

There is another comfort, that which we may call 'the blessed hope', The apostle Paul speaks of in **Romans 8:19-24a** *for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we are saved.

In other words, as the Christian looks at the world, and even as he looks at himself, he is unhappy. He groans in spirit; he or she feels the burden of sin as seen in the world that was felt by the apostles and by the Lord Himself.

But a Christian is immediately comforted. He knows there is a glory coming; he knows that a day will dawn when Christ will return, and sin will be banished from the earth. We will be released from our own sinful selves once and for all.

Questions to ask yourself:

1. What would those closest to you say about your attitude towards your own sin, as versus your attitude toward other people's sin?
2. When we first feel that twinge of guilt, our first reaction is usually shame or avoidance. What does that look like for you?
3. What brings you from trying to hide your sin into joyful repentance?

Find the same freedom as the prodigal son did. He recognized his sinful condition and mourned over it and in the midst of his misery said:

Luke 15:18-20 *I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of our hired servants. And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.*

When we finally stop ignoring or running away from our sin, and confess, grieve over and repent of our sin, our Father gives us His Kingdom, he puts His robe on our shoulders, His ring on our hand, and His sandals on our feet while He prepares a celebratory feast for us. We are comforted. We will be comforted.