



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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## Dear Friends,



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

It is hard to keep a traditional view of Scripture without that tradition becoming a hindrance to the reception of the Scripture's meaning. Like so many other verses we might site, the list from Matthew 5 we call The Beatitudes has been nearly lost to us due to our reverent enshrining of its high KJV language. I understand wanting to keep the lofty beauty, but never at the expense of understanding. What does Jesus mean when He says that those who mourn are blessed?

First, *bless* is a much more powerful word than our cultural vernacular uses it. In the South, it is a common practice to preface or follow a negative comment about some person being discussed with the antiseptic "Well, bless his heart!" When the Living Word of God uses a term, we can be sure that word usage is not contaminated by cultural mixture. To be blessed is to be far more than merely happy as is so often translated.

To gain the full meaning would take up more space than we have here, but suffice to say Jesus is using the word in its fullest possible meaning.

Mourning refers here to the deepest sorrow of a loss of someone or something precious. Let's look at what it means by first seeing what it doesn't mean. It cannot mean to be happy now in your mourning because one day out in the unknown distant future it will all be ok. If that was what Jesus meant, it would certainly be a comfort. But it is far better than that. He was speaking to people whose common experience was loss. Death was preceded by a thousand

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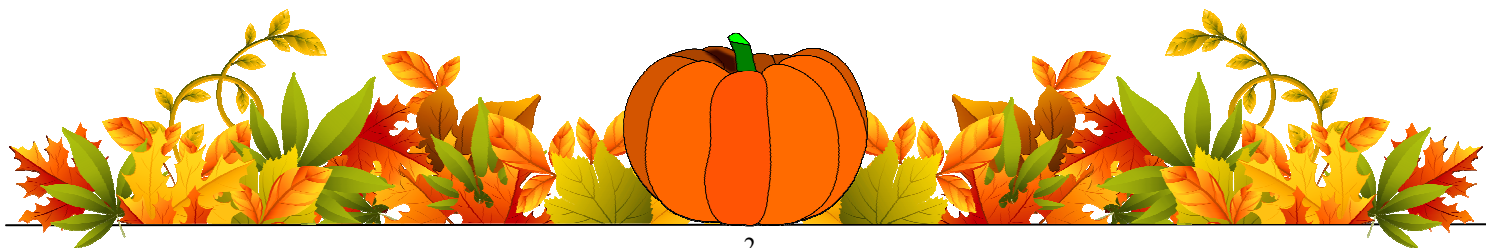
daily smaller deaths, all leading up to the loss of life. In a culture where fellow citizens might be seen lining the roadsides crucified by a demonic government, we cannot imagine the mindset that was the common emotional atmosphere of Jesus' audience.

Then, this One who had suddenly appeared bringing healing to sickness, deliverance from devils, and even raising their dead, explains to them what it means to be blessed. And so they listened! Not as they would to a typical sermon, but as a corrective message full of hope they had never imagined possible, from the mouth of One who knows. It communicated truth. Jesus was saying, "Listen, I know how deeply you feel the hopeless losses of life. I know how final and horrible it seems. But because of Me you will come to see your current mourning is a state of blessedness. Not a blessing in disguise. Not a blessing because one day it will all be ok. No. It is a blessing now." How is that so?

Mourning is only due to loving. No one mourns who does not first love. So you are blessed NOW if you mourn. Because loving enough to mourn makes you very close to Jesus. He has come to heal the brokenhearted (Isaiah 61:1). You mourn over many sorrows besides death. There are some losses even worse than death. And Jesus will put right every terrible wrong. You will have your loved one back in your arms one day. Every heart-wrenching agony will be put right one day. But till that wonderful day arrives, in your current mourning know that you ARE blessed NOW. Because anyone who loves enough to weep for another is already entering the fullness of Life that Jesus will ultimately bring at the restoration of all things.

**Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy** (Psalm 126:5). **Weeping endures for the night, but joy comes in the morning** (Psalm 30:5). Like Sam cried out when he found that Frodo was alive and well, "Is everything sad going to come untrue?" Yes! Everything sad WILL come untrue! Jesus has risen from death, and in destroying death, He has destroyed all of death's contingencies in that one victorious event. So...

**Blessed are the tears that fall,  
that clean the windows of the soul,  
that usher in a change of heart,  
and bring a joy that angels know.**  
(*Blessed are the Tears* by Bryan Duncan)





## Movie News

# Mountain Top



A young lawyer leaves his practice to become a pastor. He encounters an elderly member of his congregation who hears from God through dreams. This leads to a spiritual war. Here is a small film that has a huge story, superbly acted. It was filmed here in the Charlotte/Boone area and was a hidden treasure till it reached Netflix and began to reach a wider audience. Please find it. You'll be glad you saw it.

## ***One Person at a Time***

I don't write much anymore about current events or the latest political circuses. I am very thankful for the many reversals by this current government of many evils which were set in place by the previous one. But I put no great stock in it all. Until the hearts of people are changed, any political progress is painfully temporary. Can you reach out and touch someone in your circle of life whom you encounter regularly? Can they come to know the love of Jesus through you in a way that opens their hearts to Him? The rabbis say that to save one life is to save the whole world. How true is it that to save one soul is more important than to try to correct the whole world? Let us not love in word only, but in deed and in truth. Be Jesus to those who are in your circle of influence. And should God call you to a more visibly effective ministry, you will find it was not greater than what you were doing one precious soul at a time.

# Closing Thoughts...



Sometimes our sorrow is, well, just our sorrow. But there are times when we may be experiencing the sorrow of God's own heart. We have to learn to be sensitive to Him. He will not blurt it out to us. Are we in sorrow for the world, the state of things, some brokenness in our personal relationship to things near us? See if it might not be the sorrow of God. And if it is, you are being made a partner with Him in intercession for a needed transformation of that source of sorrow. Don't waste your sorrows.

*With Love, Clay & Mary*



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