



[Matthew 5:4](#)

(4) Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
A Faithful Version

Those of us in this end-time age may have difficulty comprehending some aspects of the [mourning God](#) expects and respects in His children. Our conscience, unless we carefully guard it, can easily adapt itself into accepting its cultural environment. Society's ethics and morals are not constants. There exists a very real pressure for them to decline from God-established standards; what one generation considers immoral or unethical might not be by the next. For instance, what appears on public movie screens over the past thirty to forty years has changed dramatically.

In 1999, the President of the United States went on trial for clearly breaking God's commandments and for crimes for which lesser people are presently serving time. The public, however, gave him high approval ratings, perceived his adulteries and sexual perversions as private affairs, and considered his perjury before a grand jury as deplorable but "no big deal."

Paul warns us in [Hebrews 3:12-15](#):

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of [sin](#). For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

The mourning [Jesus](#) desires is the kind that exhibits a softness of heart that is ready for change in a righteous direction, one that knows it has done wrong and is eagerly willing to have it cleansed into [holiness](#). We of this generation face an uphill battle because, through such media as television and movies, we have vicariously experienced the

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breaking of [God's law](#) in unparalleled frequency and in vividly sympathetic ways. On the screen life is cheap, property is meaningless, sexual purity is scoffed at, stealing is fine "if it's necessary," and [faithfulness](#) is nerdish and corny. Where is God in it? How much of this world's attitudes have we unwittingly absorbed into our character? Is our conscience still tender? Is mourning over sin—ours and others'—a vital part of our relationship with God?

Godly mourning plays a positive role in producing the changes God desires to produce His image in us. We need to pray with [David](#), "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" ([Psalm 51:10](#)). He asks God to give him what did not exist before, that his affections and feelings might be made right, and that he might not have the callused attitude that led him to [adultery](#) and [murder](#). A plea of this kind is one that God will not deny. If we are truly serious about overcoming and glorifying God, it is well worth the effort.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Beatitudes, Part Three: Mourning](#)

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