



**The promise of Matthew 5:4 is that mourners will be comforted.** According to (Luke 2:25; Isaiah 53:3; John 11:35) how is Jesus qualified as a competent comforter?

- ☀ *One day God will bring comfort to its fullest consummation. Explain how (Revelation 21:4) fits into God's promise to comfort mourners.*
  
- ☀ *How do the stories of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24) and the Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:32-43) illustrate Christ's consolation toward penitent sinners?*

**How can you cultivate spiritual mourning that brings ultimate comfort from God?** How can you appropriate God's grace in such a way that you have a proper heart towards sin? Read the suggestions below and select a few for this week. Record how the exercise made you feel, and how you ran to Christ's comfort at the conclusion of each.

- ☀ *Read through the Bible's accounts of human sin and let them shame you as a member of the race.*
  
- ☀ *Make a list of all your sins and face the horror of the true you. Let the words trample your ego.*
  
- ☀ *Personalize the penitential Psalms (Psalm 6:1-2; 32:3-5; 38:4; 51:3-5; 130; 143).*
  
- ☀ *Study what the scripture say about hell and mourn over the souls spiritually perishing.*
  
- ☀ *Visit a cemetery and plan your funeral. Let death caused by sin pierce you.*
  
- ☀ *Contemplate this corrupt world – the erosion of truth and integrity, blasphemy, etc., (Psalm 119:136; Jeremiah 13:17).*
  
- ☀ *Meditate on Christ's suffering for you (Isaiah 53).*

**Reflect upon and respond to the following quote by D.A. Carson,** *“The Christian is to be the truest realist. He reasons that death is there, and must be faced. God is there, and will be known by all as Savior or Judge. Sin is there, and it is unspeakably ugly in the light of God's purity. Eternity is there, and every living human being is rushing toward it. God's revelation is there, and the alternatives it presents will come to pass: life or death, pardon or condemnation, heaven or hell. These are realities which will not go away. The man who lives in the light of them, and rightly assesses himself and his world in the light of them, cannot but mourn. He mourns for the sins and blasphemies of his nation. He mourns for the erosion of the very concept of truth. He mourns over the greed, the cynicism, the lack of integrity. He mourns that there are so few mourners.”*