



In the Morning... and Mourning

- 1 Have you ever seen someone go through deep trouble, hardship or grief and yet hold onto joy through it? What do you think enabled them to do it? How does a pursuit of happiness work when there is so much trouble and pain in this life?
- 2 Read Matthew 5:4. What is Jesus saying, what questions does this verse spur on?
- 3 Read Romans 4:6-8. Who are the blessed or happy ones according to this verse? Why would the people described be considered the blessed ones?
- 4 Read Romans 5:1. According to this verse, how do we gain peace with God? What does it mean to be justified? Is peace with God necessary for Happiness? Why or why not? Does answering this question in the short term or long term change the answer at all?
- 5 Read Romans 5:2. When you think of grace (as encompassing all the good gifts we get in the faith), how does it lead you to rejoicing or boasting in what God has done and his glory? Boast about all the things you can think of that you have received from him?
- 6 Read Romans 5:3. Why is it that boasting or rejoicing doesn't change in the face of sufferings? How is that possible?
- 7 How should Christian's face suffering with rejoicing, and mourning? How can a person not maximize the grief and fall into despair, but also not minimize the suffering and fall into living outside reality?
- 8 What does suffering produce? Have you seen or experienced that? How is hope more than a wish and a sure thing according to this verse.
- 9 Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and Hebrews 12:2. How does these passages work together? How does suffer lead to glory for Jesus and for us?
- 10 What suffering or pain in your life needs hope? Is your life defined by a deep happiness and joy that isn't diminished by circumstances? What would it look like to grow that foundation of true happiness? Where are your eyes?

Romans 5:1-5

1Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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