

**40 Days with Jesus:
Week #2 – Jesus on “Surviving Sorrow”**

This sermon will focus the attention of the audience on the second beatitude known as “*those who mourn.*” We will examine what it means to experience *godly sorrow* versus worldly sorrow. Godly sorrow is the only sorrow that brings spiritual life and growth. We will couple this passage with **2 Corinthians 7:10-11** and examine how godly sorrow is linked to repentance and repentance to sin.

Central Message: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. – **James 4:8**

We will observe that the central message that needs to be embraced in order to survive our times of sorrow is to draw near to God and then he will draw near to us.

Four Elements in Surviving Sorrow

Element #1 – Distinguish the Difference

- Two Kinds of Sorrow: Worldly Sorrow, Godly Sorrow
- **2 Corinthians 7:8-11** – ⁸ Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— ⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.
- **James 4:8-10** – ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
- **Key Point** – This main point will help us understand the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow. The emphasis will be upon godly sorrow and how it leads us to repentance.

Draw near to me and I will draw near to you!

Element #2 – Study the Word

- **Romans 8:7** – Sin = Missing the mark
- **Acts 3:19** – Repent and your sins are wiped out
- **1 John 1:9** – Confess your sins and you will be forgiven
- **Psalms 51:3** – Keep your sin before you
- **Key Point** – This main point will examine the Word of God and its definition of sin and the forgiveness of sin. We must have a correct understanding in order to recognize sin when we experience it in our lives. A correct understanding of sin leads to true godly sorrow.

Draw near to me and I will draw near to you!

Element #3 – Eliminate the Obstacles

- **Matthew 16:23** – Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”
- **Key Point** – This main point will encourage us to observe the obstacles that are present in our lives that are keeping us from experiencing godly sorrow. We will examine such areas as: despair, presumption, procrastination, and focus upon the holiness of God.

Draw near to me and I will draw near to you!

Element #4 – Live for the Blessing

- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** – ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
- **Matthew 11:28-30** – ²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
- **Key Point** – This main point will encourage each believer to focus on living for the blessings that comes with those who mourn. The blessing is that of being comforted by the eternal comforter.

Draw near to me and I will draw near to you!

Questions to Consider

1. How can godly sorrow bring comfort in my life?
2. How can I focus on drawing near to God this week?

Challenge:

The challenge will be for people to pray for God to search their hearts throughout the week and make an active commitment of repentance as they reflect on **Psalm 51:17**.

Memory Verse:

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

