

Mourning For Sin

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“Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted.” (Matt. 5:4). This statement from Jesus is something confusing to some and at the same time encouraging to others. This however is not about self-purity by one who feels that life has short changed him. It is not a natural sorrow as expressed in Rom. 12:15 where Paul wrote *“rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn”*.

Our Lord Jesus commanded the kind of mourning that one develops when he or she sorrows for the sin committed in his or her life. When one understands the Bible teaching regarding purity of life, he will mourn for his sin. David expressed its meaning well when he wrote, *“I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.”* (Psa. 38:18). The attitude of the mourning for sin did not end up with David. It was also expressed when Joel recorded God’s pleading with Israel in the Joel 2:12,13: *“Even now, declares the Lord, returned to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate.”*

We can also get a good example of mourning for our sins in Luke 18:13, the parable of the Pharisees and the Tax collector *“...But the tax collector stood at a distance he would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God have mercy on me, a sinner.’* In order to have such a deep sense of sorrows one need to compared himself or herself with the example of the life of Christ during the time he spent here on earth, and his concerned for each other who is his follower. The Hebrew writer described our Lord’s concern for humanity by saying, *“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin.”*

Having learned how we must mourn for our own sin committed in our life, we should not end there. However, the Bible tells us also to mourn over the sin of others such as mourning will motivate us to do more evangelism, for research out to the lost with the gospel.

Brethren, all of you and myself, we have a commission to take the message of salvation to the world, because sin that have not been forgiven will bring condemnation of the sinners when the judgment comes. However, we who have been given the commission may ignore the sin of others, or seek to save them, be affected by our choices. Ignoring God’s commission is in itself, a sin. (James 4:17).

John Kombo

Nakuru, Kenya

