

Does Jesus Want Sad Christians?

Upside Down series

by Chris Famisaran

Morning, everybody. How are you all doing? Well, as Gustavo and Lourdes pointed out, just give you a brief update on as far as our giving, roughly, unofficially, unofficially, we have about \$115,000. So math was not my strong suit. Or it's about \$35,000 left. So thank you. Thank you. Thank you, thank you. We're going to continue to raise money till the end of next month. That's our plan. And should we need if we need to, we will, we can apply for a loan, but the way things are going, we may not have to do that. Amen. So again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your kindness, your generosity. I want to tell you, it's been a very uplifting experience been able to work with you all.

Let's pray, Father in heaven as we now take time to go to the scriptures, as we continue our series, Lord, upside down, be with us in Jesus name, amen. Well, we're continuing our series upside down, we're looking at the Beatitudes of blessing are those who mourn for they will be what? comforted. And it seems kind of like a paradox and oxymoron, bless it or happy or those who mourn. And yet when you hear the word or the term mourn what comes to mind? sadness, grief, death, right? Yet Jesus is saying happy are those who are sad, were grieving, they will be comforted doesn't make sense. Well, let's go ahead and continue.

Now. Back in 2013, I believe it was 2013, the Spanish Navy commissioned that four submarines be built, they were called the S81 Isaac pearl. It was state of the art submarine, I believe the initial cost was \$680, they had set aside for over \$3 billion. The only problem about this particular sub, was that it was overweight by 75 to 100 tons. Quick math, how much is that? 150,000 To 200,000 pounds overweight. And so if the sub went into the water, there's only direction it would go, down. So submarine. And so when you look at this catastrophe, how could it be? Well, in the whole planning process, they were off by one, one decimal and one decimal cost, it was going to cost roughly nine point I think \$9.8 million per extra meter that they would have to lengthen the sub to be able to account the buoyancy. I would not want to be that, would you say engineer, architect,

designer would not want to be that guy. It would take an additional seven years to correct and I believe I think it was in 2021 is when the submarine was finally able to be launched and should be in service as of this year. One decimal, one little thing and we think, okay, it's just a decimal. But one little decimal can lead to millions, if not hundreds of millions of dollars.

I'd like to go to the book of Psalms. Where is my clicker? Let's go to Psalm 32. I'd like to read a psalm that David wrote a maskil. Psalm 32. And this Psalm, it's similar in the sense of it's much like another Psalm, Psalm 51. Okay, we all there? Psalm 32. Blessed it is the one whose transgressions are what? forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed it is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them, and in whose spirit is no deceit, amen. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my what? groaning, can never say another way of describing that is regret, all day long. For day and night, Your hand was heavy on me, my strength was sapped, as in the heat of summer. And then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. David takes ownership. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore, but all the faithful pray to you, while you may be found, surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place, you will protect me from trouble. And surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule which have no understanding, but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's how much? unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in Him. Therefore rejoice in the Lord and be glad you righteous seeing all of you who are upright in heart.

So as indicated, we're in the middle of this series called Upside Down, looking at those who blessed for those who mourn will be comforted. Now, mourning in the context of Matthew, the mourning that Jesus is talking about is not necessarily the mourning of losing a loved one, but that of our own past decisions, our sin? What leads to salvation? Before you have to have what? Repentance. Can you be saved for something that you're not sorry? Does it have meaning? Does it have value? Truly when we miss, excuse me, when we make mistakes, it's important that we recognize our own fault. In this morning that Jesus is talking about Jesus not saying he wants us to be the sad people going from because remember the

context, blessed, happy. But in our walk with God, in our daily lives, when we make mistakes, we have to own our mistakes. We face sometimes bad choices, we face the loss of a loved one, though there are those times where yes, losing a loved one is tough. There is also a time that Jesus lived in when who was in charge. Rome. And in the Roman world was everything great? Was it the best place to raise children? Quite not. And not only that, the Jewish community, did they have a great relationship with the Roman government? No, because they were what? They were being oppressed. We've talked about tax collectors, the traitors, what do they do? They collect taxes and give it to Caesar. So they're being extorted. They're being ruled over? And what were they looking for, especially in Matthew's contexts, they were waiting for what? A Messiah, a redeemer. And they'd known they'd heard, they'd read as they read the scriptures, that there was to be a messiah Redeemer, one who would take over and make things better. And in a way, blessed are those who mourn those who wait are waiting for, longing for the Messiah.

Now, mourning is a longing as well to be free from the pain and suffering that they were experiencing. So happier those who longed to be freed from sin, from loss from greed, and being held back as the Jews were experiencing. Have you ever made a decision where you regret that big decision? I think all of us at some point, right. Is there a decision that you made in the past that perhaps still haunts you today and you wish you could do anything past possible to change that situation? If I'm being honest, I do have one instance in my life that I wish I could change, but I can't. And the truth is, can I change the past? I can't. Now, I can make better decisions towards the future. We all can. But we can't change the past, we can only move forward. And then that can seek God's wisdom, we can seek God's help, though we may mourn that loss of a loved one of a past decision that's brought perhaps pain in our lives. And sometimes we're still maybe even feeling those effects. God's still, God's grace is still abundant, and can help us to move forward to fight and then also to make better decisions moving forward.

I'd like to go to one more passage, I'm sorry, I meant to put this morning can refer to sin loss, social evil, and oppression. I'd like to go to another passage, one that we're probably also familiar with. Jesus quoted in Luke 4, when he goes into the believers, the synagogue. Let's go to Isaiah, chapter 61, Isaiah 61.

There's a promise here that we can find in the book of Isaiah. We all there? The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has appointed and anointed me to what? To proclaim what good news to whom, to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, does that sound like good news? To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who would mourn, God's great desire to heal those to comfort those who are mourning and provide for those who grieve in Zion, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise? Instead of a spirit of what despair, they will be called oaks of righteousness. Is an oak, a very bendable tree? It's rock solid. If a car and an oak tree get into a fistfight, who do you think's gonna win if it's a big Strong Oak, oak will probably win. A planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. And what I take from this is this. Jesus has a final say, Amen. Jesus has the final say, to be able to work in our hearts, to grant us peace, salvation, the gift of salvation, which should bring us joy. Jesus does not want us to be in despair. So moving forward, what do we have to do? We have to embrace our regret. We have to own our past decisions. Daniel Pink wrote in The Wall Street Journal some time ago that regret is a second most common emotion felt amongst human beings. What's the first one do you think? Could be fear? What about love? Pink argues that regret isn't just common, you're gonna say something very while it may actually be beneficial. Okay.

So we've heard the term no regrets, right? But if we're being honest, do we truly live with no regrets? In fact, he argues, no regrets is unsustainable. At a time when teenagers or even adults, they're dealing with unprecedented mental health issues. The financial future? Is it looking awesome right now? It's not. The pandemic has caused uncertainty over all of our lives being in and so he analyzed more than 16,000 individual descriptions of regret from people in over 105 countries. And one of those was from Abby Henderson, who was a 30 year old at the time, who wrote I regret not taking advantage of spending time with my grandparents. As a child. I resented their presence in my home, and their desire to connect with me. How horrible that a child is like, "Get away from me grandma and grandpa". sorry.... my home their desire to connect with me. And then she says, Uh, now I would do anything to get that time back. How many of you miss the loved one rather than shut out this regret or be humbled by it? However, she

changed or altered her approach to her aging mother and father, and began to record and compile stories from their lives. I don't want to feel the way when my parents died that I felt about my grandparents of what did I miss. Now regret it feels awful and stomach turning that sensation in the present better than the future brighter if only you hadn't chosen so poorly decided so wrongly or acted so stupidly in the past. Regret hurts. Regret is not abnormal. In fact, regret is healthy and universal in the sense an integral part of being human. Equally important regret is about is valuable. It clarifies it instructs, done right, it needn't drag us down, it can only lift us up. A wild take. But what does regret do? It helps us to point out areas in our life that we need to attend to. Because if we don't deal with them, what's going to happen? It's going to make it worse, you can only kick the can so far down the road. decisions in your past can haunt you, and perhaps even have a physical effect on your life. So by addressing loves and regrets, we can deal with how to move forward.

When regret brings us to repentance, it also brings us to salvation. It's part of being forgiving, and setting free from our past. Through God's grace, amen. How many of you have heard famous passage come to me all of you who are weary and what burden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy. And my burden is light.

Today is a very special day. As you can see we have the emblems for communion. I'd like to invite our elders and our deacons to please come forward as we get ready to serve. today. I want to ask you, are you mourning anything? There's a decision in the past or something that happened that you regret? Is there. Are you mourning right now grieving the loss of a loved one right now? Are you feeling broken down feeling like there's just nothing left to live for? I want to ask, give it to God. Give it to God and find peace and joy. May you be blessed. So this week, I want to pray. I want you to pray and ask God to relieve the pain the morning that you are experiencing and bask in His love and His grace.

Father in Heaven Thank You, Lord, for your good and your mercy endures forever. As we close this portion of our service. Lord, help us to not take you for granted and Lord where we are regretful of past decisions in our lives. We know that we can come to you because you are a God of grace and of love and redeemed us

May we not take that for granted. And God above all, help us to move forward with confidence knowing that you are our Redeemer as we now move into the portion of the communion. Lord, may this experience not be just any experience but an awesome experience. Be with us now. In Jesus name, Amen.