

A. EXPERIENCE A DEEP SORROW (:4)

1. Not For... Business Loss... Etc...

- a. Conviction (see as God sees) & repentance (vs. cover / defend)

2. For The Damage Sin Does In Your Earthly Life

- a. Every calamity - earthquake, tidal wave, volcano... is the result of sin's presence
- b. Every sickness, disease, addiction, mental illness, etc.
- c. Poverty & suffering of every kind...
- d. Every loss - death, divorce... (Jesus wept)

3. For The Damage Sin Does To Your Relationship With God

- a. Every people, every where, throughout all time, have tried to live to please God
- b. Every person, every where, throughout all time, has tried to live to please God - and failed
- c. But when a person comes to their senses & accepts the reality that God not only is, but that He loves them & cares for them, and realizes that it's sin that blinds them to the truth separates them from Him, grief & mourning are a reasonable response

4. For The Sacrifice God Made To Undo That Damage

- a. As we consider the significance of everything the cross represents, it has to - if we're honest with ourselves - it has to stir us up inside
- b. Jesus wants you to know that you have to pass through this deep sorrow for the damage sin does before you can be comforted and experience the sense of well being that only God can provide

B. GAIN A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON EXISTENCE (:5)

1. This Verse Is Really Pretty Easy To Understand Once We Know What It Means To Be Meek

- a. Meekness (humility) is not:
 - 1) weakness
 - 2) self deprecating "aw shucks"
 - 3) timid
 - 4) low opinion of one's self (= pride)
- b. Meek = knowing your place
 - 1) recognizing & accepting your own strengths & weakness
 - 2) used of a horse under control of the rider

2. Meekness, As It Relates To Our Relationship W/Jesus, Speaks To Our Yieldedness To His Nature

- a. Surrendering our strength to His strength; our wisdom to His wisdom; habits;
- b. Yielding control of our lives to the One who not only gave us life on earth to begin with, but yielded His own earthly life to restore us to the real, eternal, spiritual life we were created for

3. Jesus Says; When You Take Stock Of Who You Really Are, In Light Of Who I Really Am, You're Gonna Have A New Perspective On Your Very Existence

- a. And that brings you into a sense of security, contentment & well being that you will not & can not arrive at any other way.
- b. *You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought (MSG)*

C. TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF THE PROGRESSION HERE

1. Recognizing Your Own Spiritual Poverty --> Experiencing Genuine Sorrow For Sin & The Damage It Does --> A New Perspective On Existence
 - a. Poverty is the realization.
 - b. Mourning is the expression of that realization
 - c. Meekness is the result.