



Our vision at New Hope Baptist Church is:
to be a multiethnic family of faith,
united by God's grace,
remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ,
growing in obedience to God's Word,
and
sharing the Gospel with a distinctive witness in word and deed.

May 2020... the Contact ... Vol. XLII Issue 5

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Matthew 6:3 *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."*

Last month, I started a series in the Contact on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:2-12. As a review, the Beatitudes describes the character of those who truly belongs to the Kingdom of God. They consist of eight descriptions of the believer's inner condition as the result of the work of Christ. The first beatitude is "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This is a very important starting point because it teaches that salvation is not based on our own merit or on our own ability to obey God. Rather salvation is an act of God's grace to those who acknowledge their spiritual poverty and brokenness and trust in God for salvation.

Let us look now at the second beatitude "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." A true follower of Jesus is sorrowful. This may seem odd. Why would one who mourns be blessed? Is Jesus condemning laughter and promoting a grim Christianity? No, not at all. In fact, in his ministry, Jesus often described his coming as an occasion for great joy, such that you experience at a wedding banquet.

In the OT, mourning is often associated with the sufferings and injustices found in this sin-torn world. As Christians, we know that God's creation is inherently good. Yet, we also know the tragic and serious consequences of sin on God's creation. Because of sin, things are not as they were designed. There are natural disasters like floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, droughts, and famines. There are moral disasters such as terrorism, murder, rape, persecution, slavery, child abuse, divorce, abortion, and genocide. There are physical disasters such as diseases and cancer. We are currently facing a physical threat in this Coronavirus pandemic.

Knowing both realities is difficult for Christians. We long to see the good of God's creation, but we have only experienced his creation under the sin curse. It is difficult to see how society not only condones sin but celebrates it. People find enjoyment in moral trash. Sexuality immorality is encouraged. God's name is abused and slandered. The world is filled with evil. The world often looks dark and hopeless. For Christians, it is impossible to look around this world and not feel the urge to mourn. Do we weep over the consequences of sin or have we been hardened to sin? Do we weep over how the world consistently rejects God or have we become used to it? In addition, this sadness is very personal. For those who love the Lord Jesus, we are daily reminded of our own struggles with sin and become discouraged about the lack of progress in our own sanctification, thus, giving reason to mourn all the more.

But there is good news. Jesus promises comfort to those who mourn over sin. In eternity, there will be no more tears, death, and sin. Nothing will be sad, disappointing, or deficient. There will be freedom from the body of sin once and for all. There will be no shame over past sins. The glory we will experience with the Lord Jesus will be unbelievable. Therefore, the Apostle Paul expressed such bold confidence in Romans 8:18, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." This is a beautiful Beatitude in which we must take to heart here at New Hope.

Pastor Jason



Calendar of Events

Standing Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Sunday School **9:30 a.m.**
Morning Worship **11:00 a.m.**

Tuesday

H₄K (Children's Ministry) **6:30 p.m.**

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study **7:00 p.m.**

Friday

Open Gym **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

1st and 3rd Saturday **10:00 a.m.**
H₄F (Clothes Closet/Food Pantry)

**Should we be able to return
to church – here is the
schedule for May**

May 2nd
Senior Adult Sunday

May 10th
Mother's Day

May 30th
**Family Life Center Reserved
All Day**

Happy Mother's Day

*Well, good morning, Jesus
Yes, it's me again
But I didn't call this time
To get forgiveness for my sins
I called to talk to Mama
And I know she's there with you
If there's a phone in Heaven
Then Jesus, put me through

If your Mom is still with you, don't
let this Mother's Day go by without
telling her how special she is to you.*

Lyrics by Mike Manuel

Nursery Volunteers

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Christine Smith Hannah Smith	5/3	Jim Hartis
Erin Black Jack Smith	5/10	Laney Emanuel
Leah Jordan Hannah Smith	5/17	Jeff Smith
Becky Hubbard Jack Smith	5/24	Gerald Freeman
Christine Smith Hannah Smith	5/31	Jim Hartis

Birthdays for May

5/20 Wilma Freeman
5/21 Linda McCarver
5/23 Annette McCarver
5/30 Vanessa Jefferson

