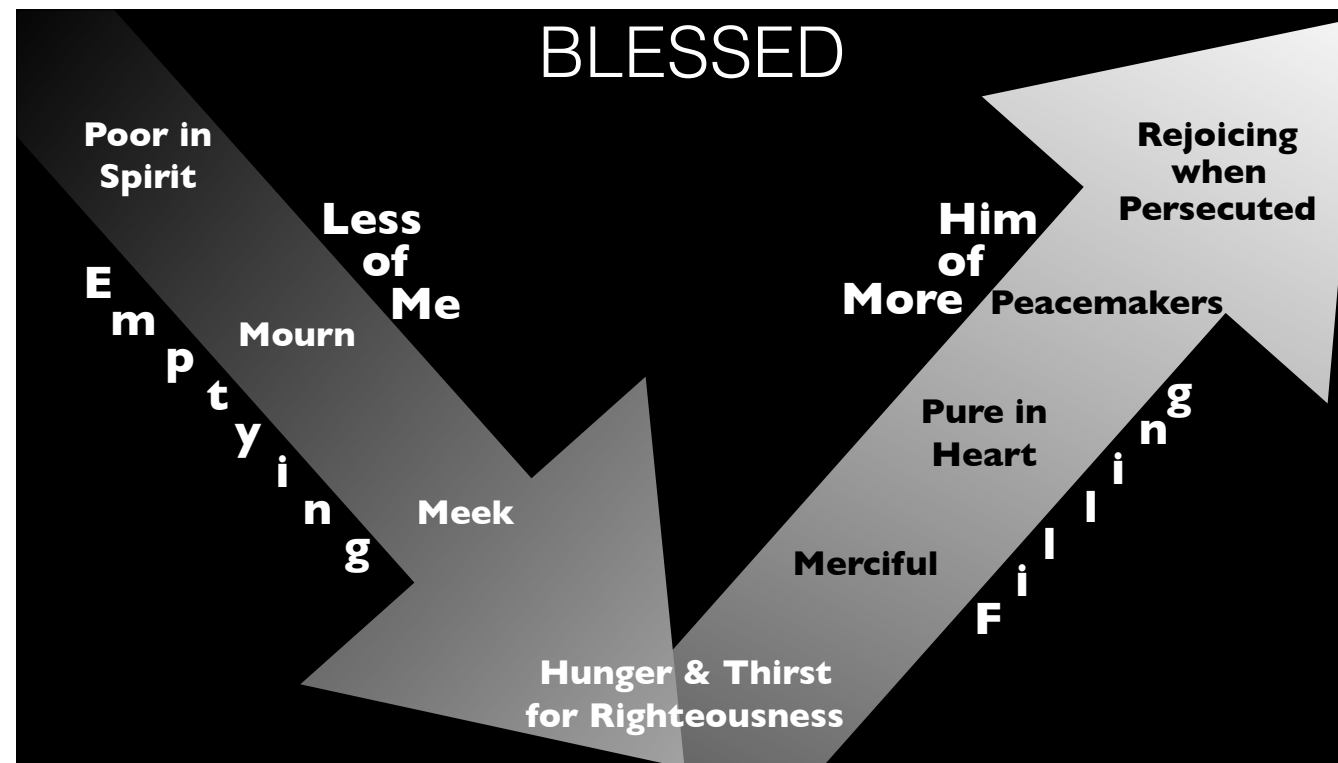


The Blessed Life
The Rewards
Matthew 5:3-12

The Rewards - I

Kingdom of Heaven and Mourn

How God Blesses Us



- Overview of the Character of the citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
 - The first part seems to indicate an “emptying” of my self, turning away from selfish desires and pride.
 - The second seems to indicate a filling up of being more like Jesus in all that I am.

Rejoice and be glad,
for your **reward** is great in heaven

Matthew 5:12



- Matthew 5:12: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- Clearly our God rewards, or blesses (?), us when we strive to have the character He desires (that we are like Him).
- Should we be serving God for the reward?

•



- Hebrews 11:6: And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- Our faith is not just about the existence of God, but in knowing that He rewards



- Abram was looking for a city
 - Hebrews 11:10: For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
 - Hebrews 11:16: But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Rejoice and be glad,
for your **reward** is great in heaven

Matthew 5:12



He **rewards** those
who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

- Our work, faith, suffering is not in vain... it all has meaning,
- God gave us a nature that anticipates.

Rejoice and be glad,
for your **reward** is great in heaven

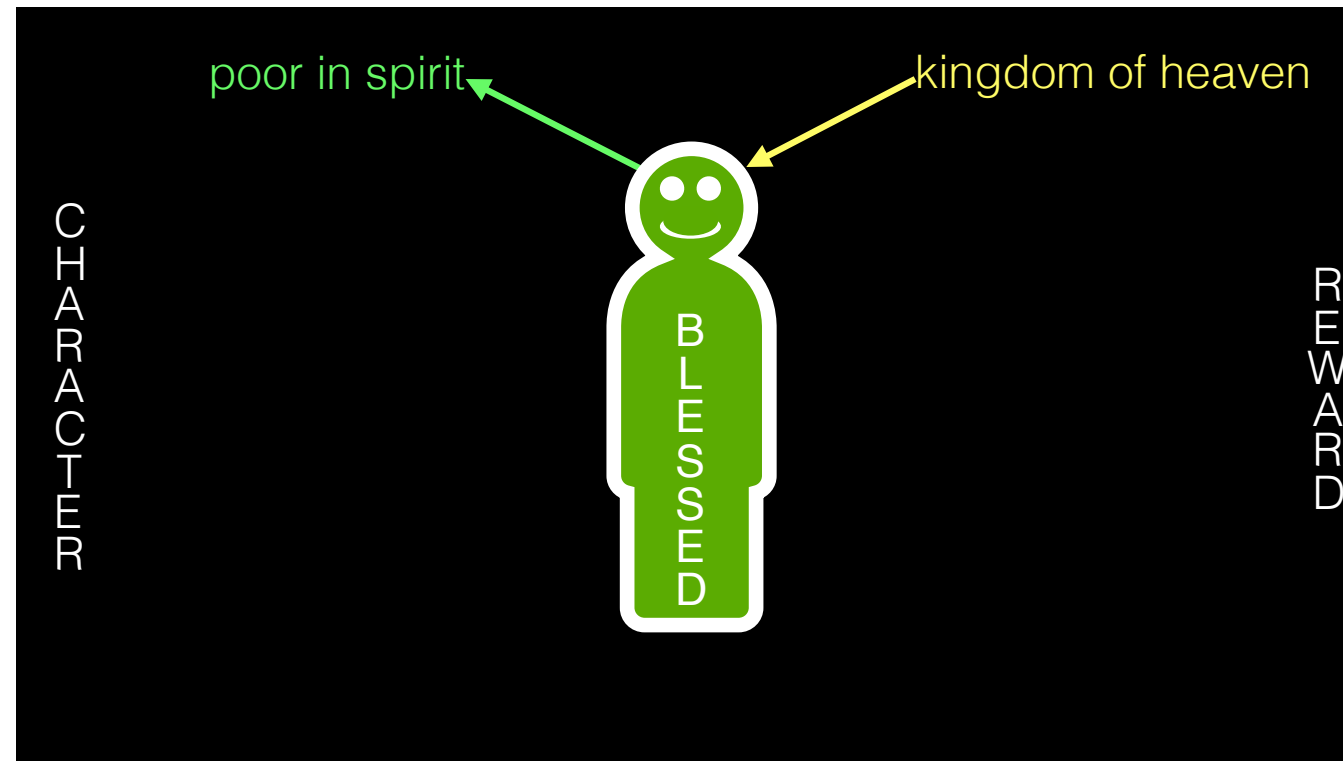
Matthew 5:12



He **rewards** those
who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

- The rewards are spiritual in nature, not physical.
- The rewards are not only in the future (heaven), but now.



- poor in spirit - theirs is kingdom of heaven
- Note the Certainty of this... the assurance.
- Both first and last of the rewards



- "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).
 - not just something off in the distant future,
 - happen very soon
 - the people of Jesus' time were to prepare themselves to be a part of that kingdom.
-



First think of distant future... true, but not the only aspect (and maybe not the most important)



Spiritual, not earthly, kingdom

John 18:36: Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."



- My kingdom ... present (not future); it exists
- no “physical location”; not latitude nor longitude to GPS it.
-



kingdom of heaven

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking
but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17

Romans 14:17: For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.



kingdom of heaven

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking
but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17

RWP: 'The kingdom of heaven' here means the reign of God in the heart and life.



kingdom of heaven

For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.

Luke 17:21

- Pharisees: when will kingdom come... not when, but how recognize?
- Jesus: "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you" (Luke 17:20-21).
- Kingdom
 - Jesus and disciples and believers
 - presently exists! "is in the midst of you"
 - spiritual
 - relationship!



kingdom of heaven

transferred us to the kingdom
of his beloved Son

Colossians 1:13

Only those who understand God and themselves may enter the kingdom

Colossians 1:13-14: He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have **redemption**, the forgiveness of sins.



Revelation 1:5-6: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



Revelation 5:9-10: And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."



kingdom of heaven

Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

There is no room in the Kingdom of Christ for the ego of the self-righteous.

Only the poor in spirit / humble enter the kingdom...

Matthew 18:1-4:

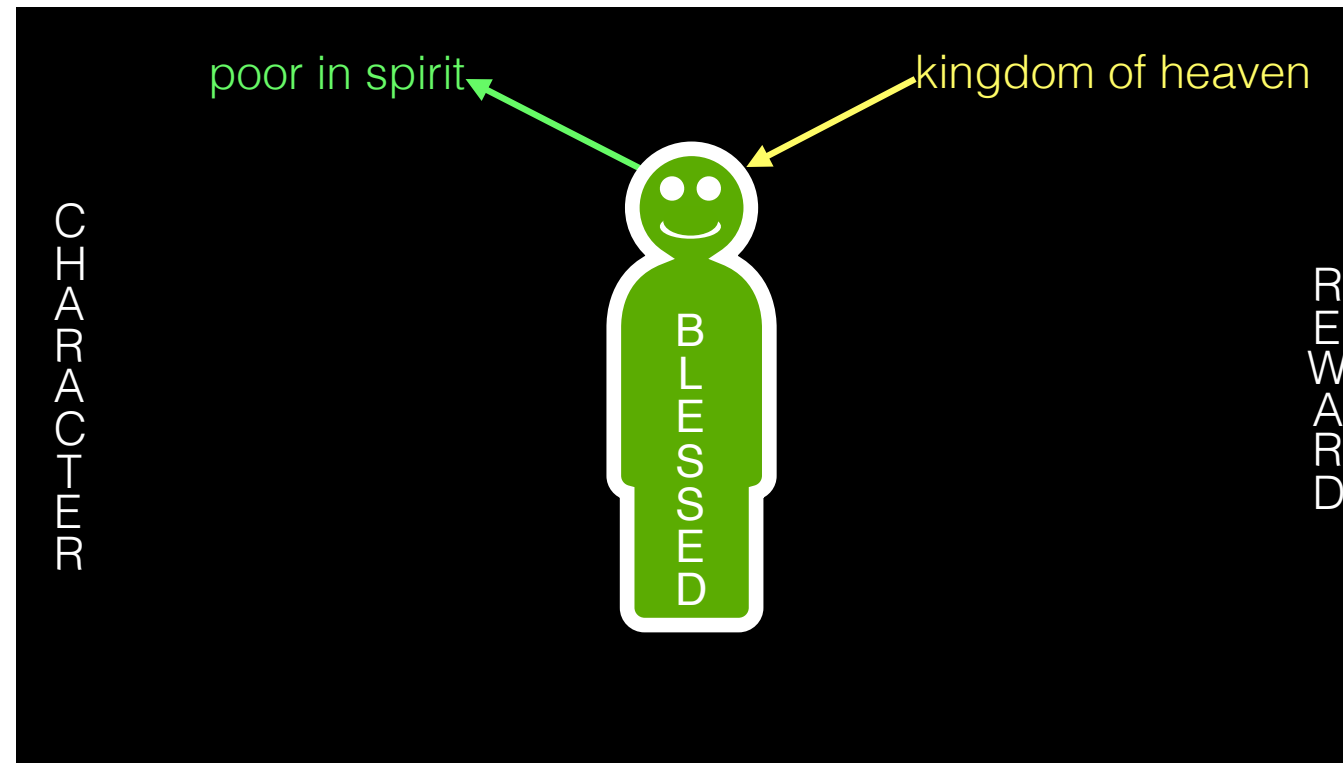


kingdom of heaven

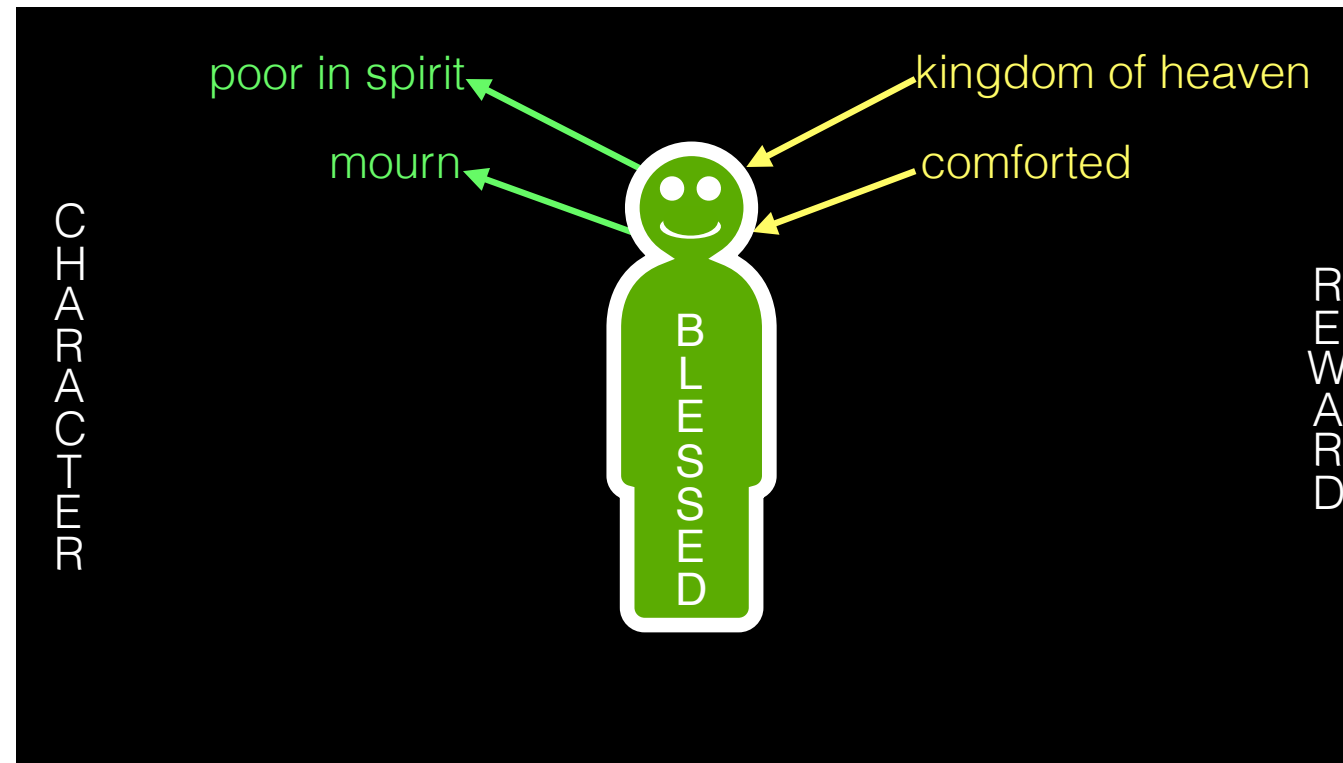
Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

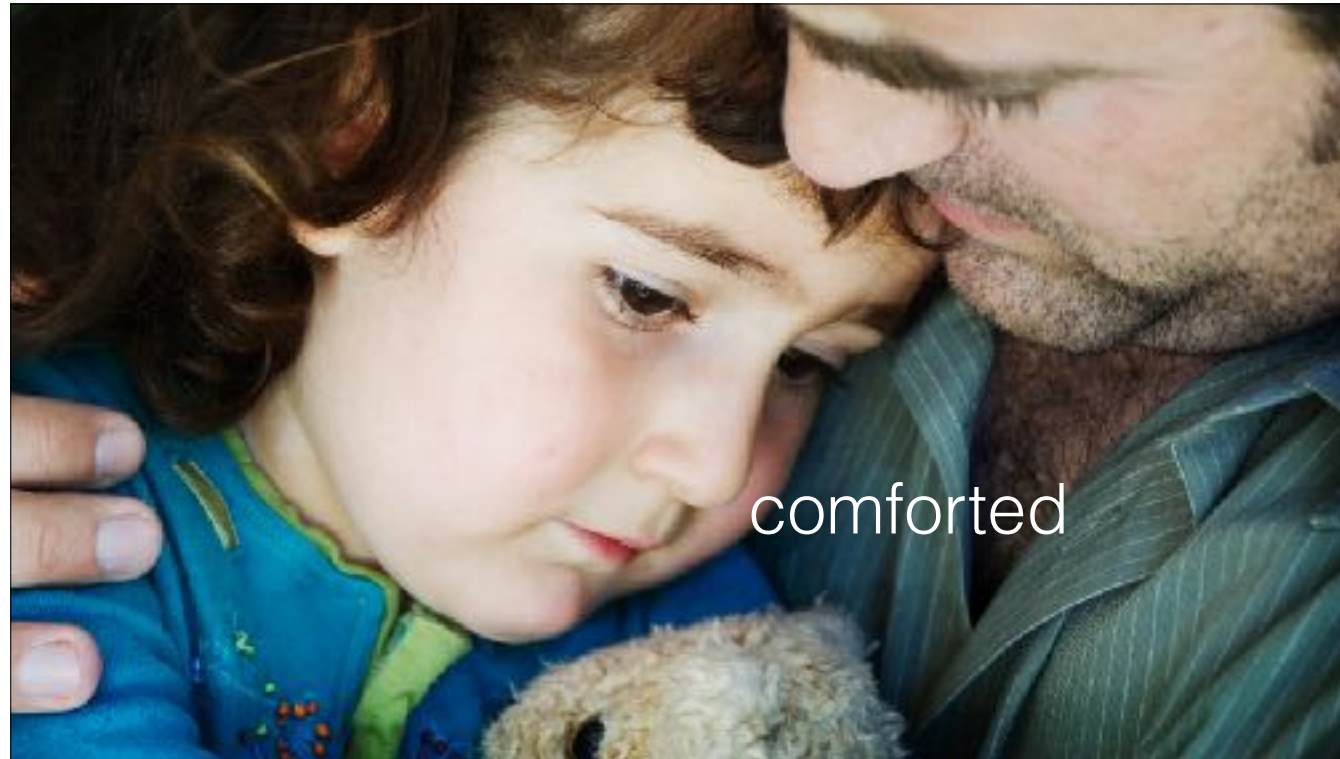
Matthew 18:1-4: At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**”



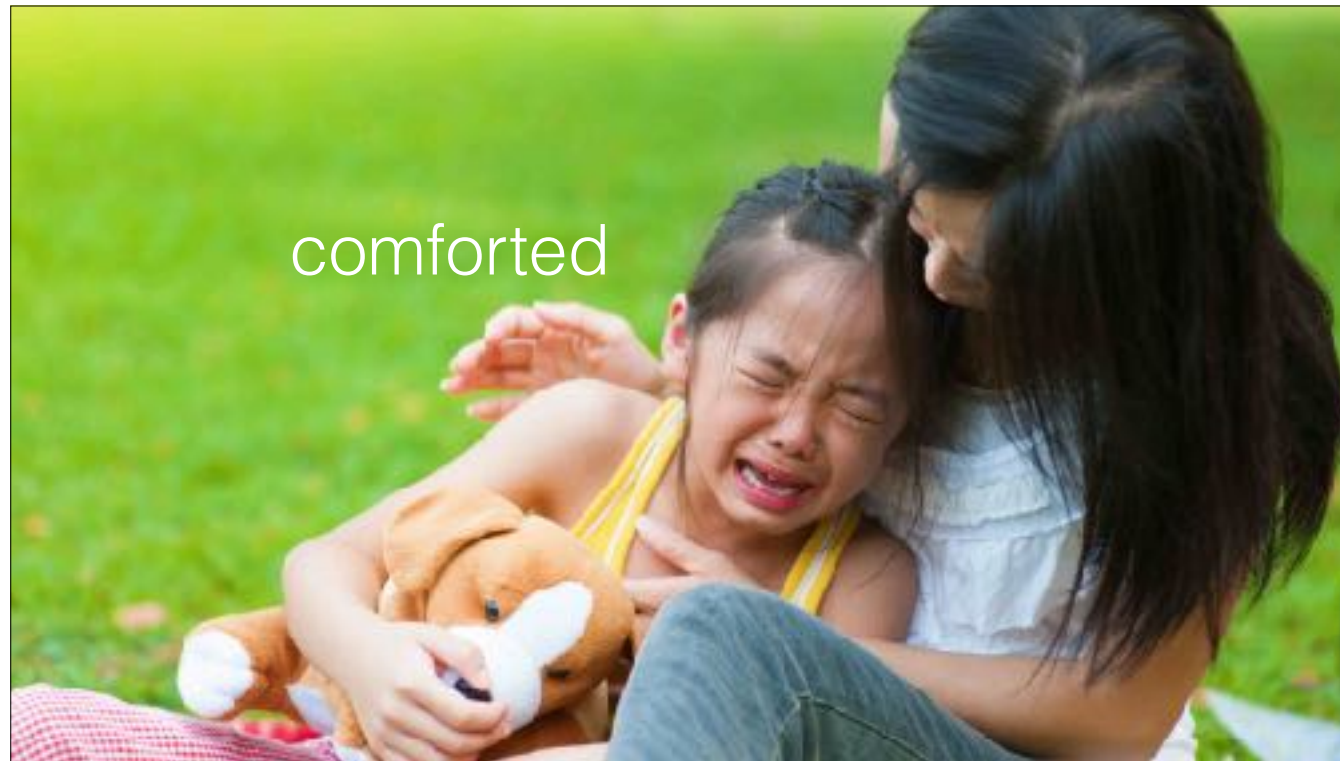
- poor in spirit - theirs is kingdom of heaven



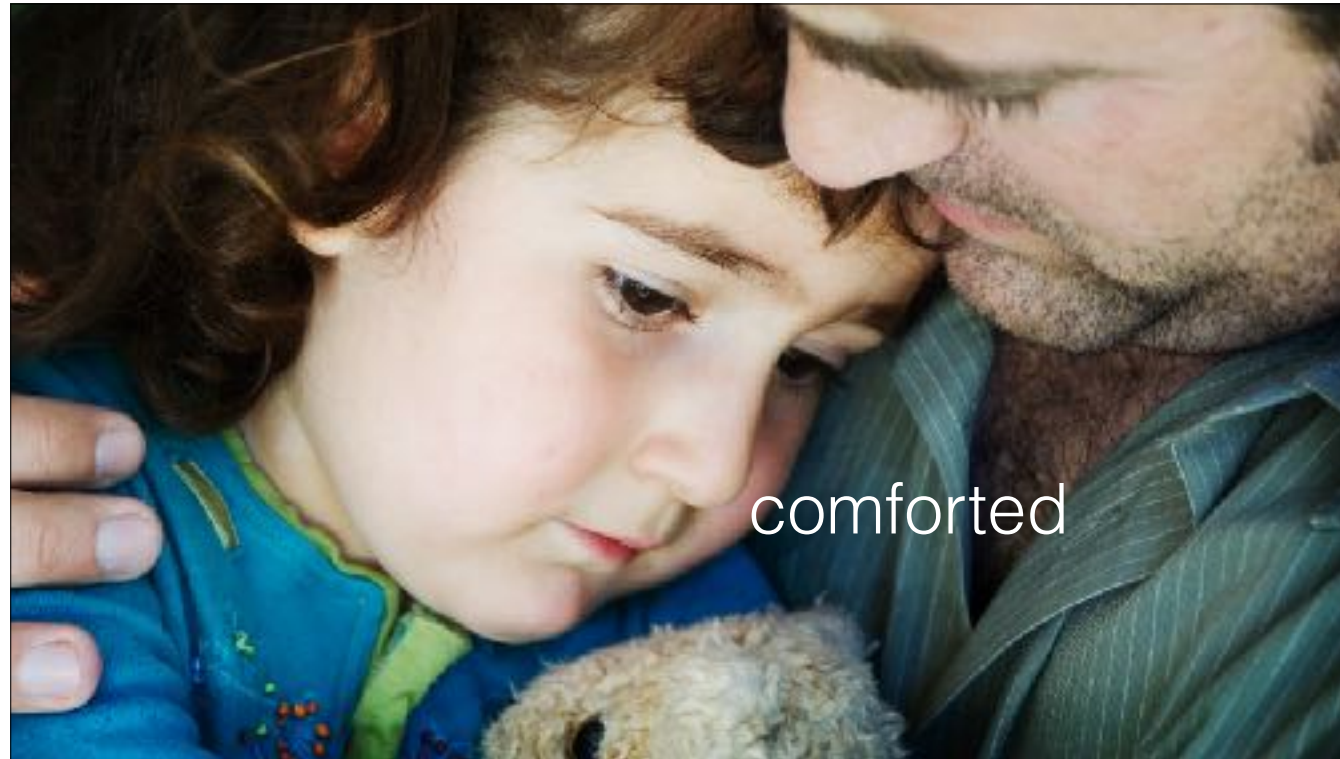
- mourn - comforted



- Although we mourn (sin!): no melancholy, remorse, depression, quitter
- Paul's struggles:
 - "perplexed, but not drive to despair" (2 Corinthians 4:8)
 - "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (2 Corinthians 6:10).
- Comforted: called to one's side; of the consolation (comfort) given not in words but by the experience of a happier lot or by a happy issue, i.q. to refresh, cheer



- Where does a child who is hurting go to find help and comfort? Father or mother (Lucado)
- Doesn't our Heavenly Father want to comfort his adopted children who are hurting?



In Christ: Isaiah 61:1-3:

to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.



From mourning to celebration

Why mourning? poor, brokenhearted, captive, bound in prison (SIN!)

Ashes to Headdress

mourning vs. Oil of gladness

faint spirit vs. garment of praise

Celebration — because we are forgiven! relationship restored.

Sounds like the prodigal son!

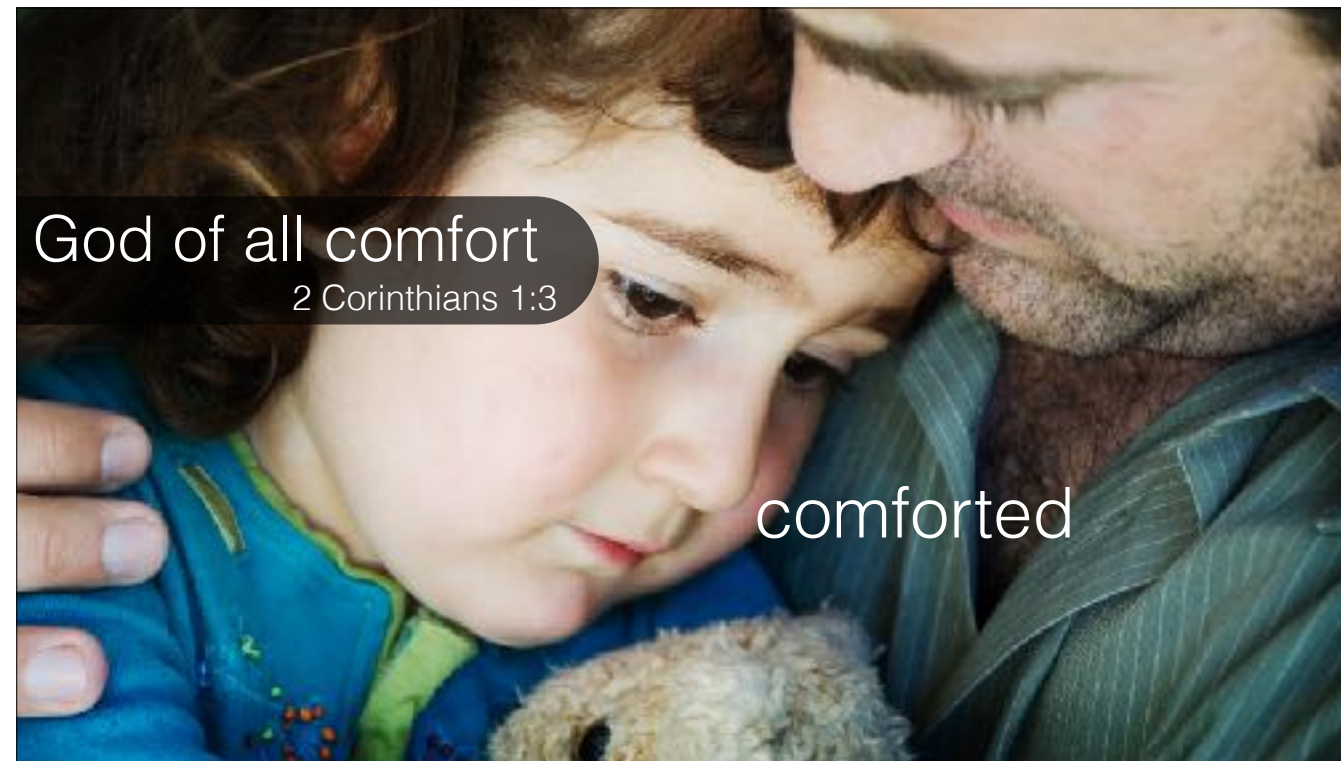
From sin to forgiveness



Oaks of Righteousness

Too many Christians don't "feel like" they are forgiven, so they live in constant sorrow due to sins that were washed away by the blood of Christ.

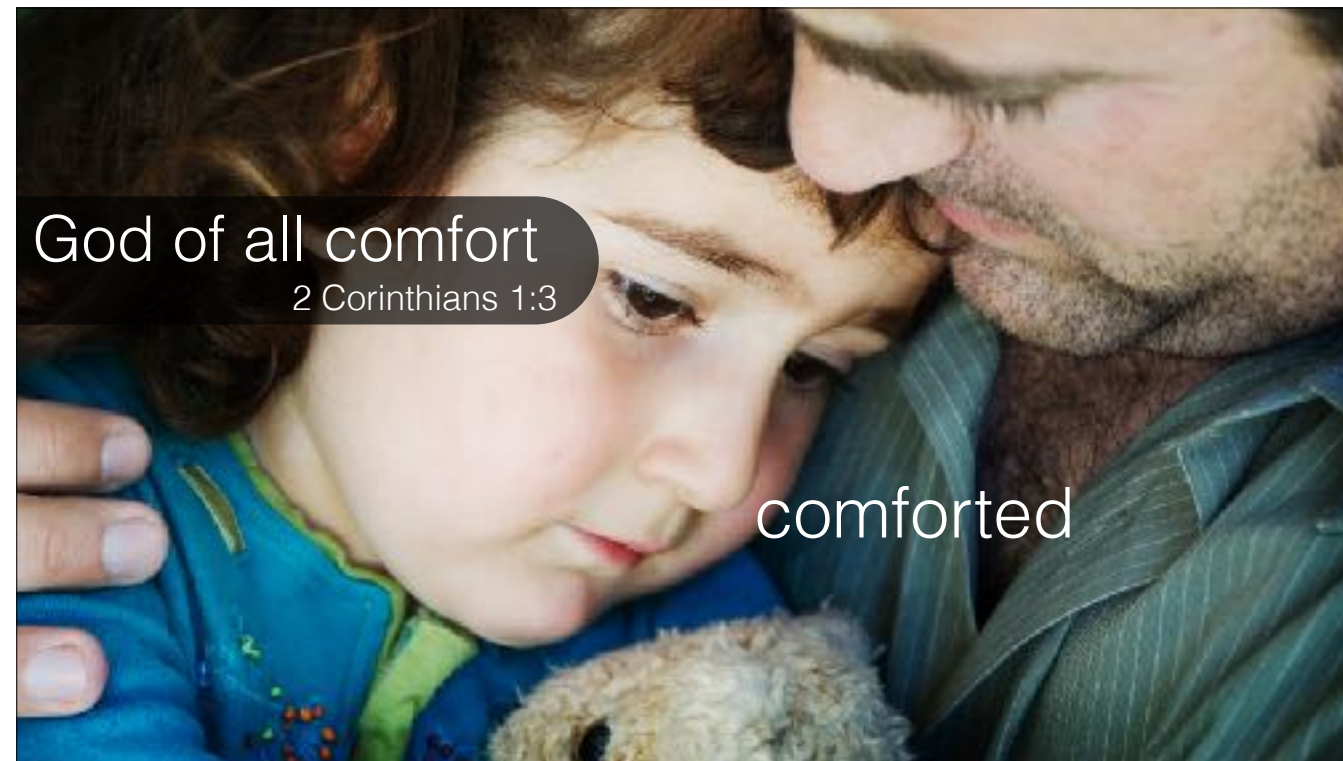
How can I be an Oak if I'm a weeping willow?



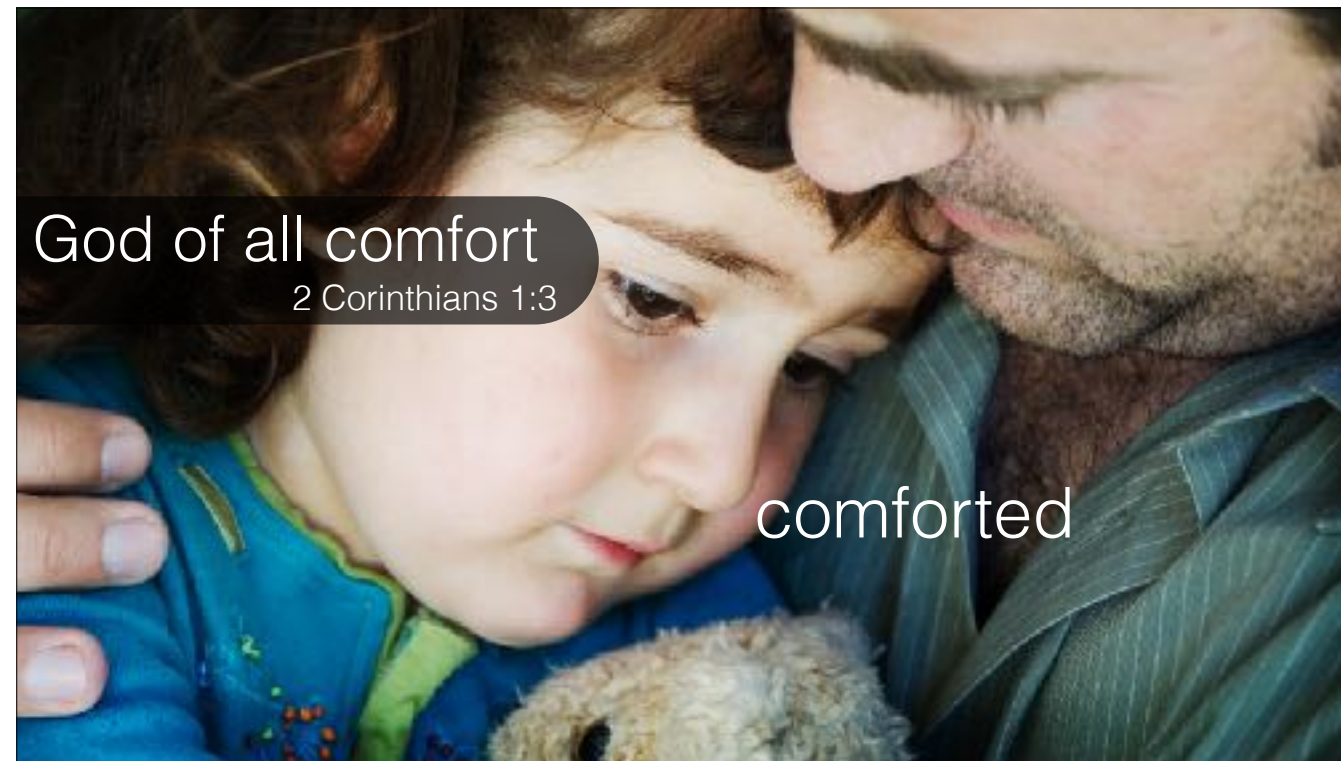
God of all comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3

comforted


2 Corinthians 1:3-7: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.



- Doesn't promise it will go away, but that He will comfort us!
- Often with our own brothers and sisters:
 - Paul by Titus and Corinthians in Corinth (2 Corinthians 7:5-12)
 - Paul by Timothy in Corinth (1 Thess. 3:6-10)



- Paul we find a more troubling reminder about the sorrow we sometimes struggle with.
- Jewish brethren.
- He says that he had "great sorrow and unceasing anguish" (Romans 9:1-5) in his heart.
 - Oh how he loved his kinsmen and longed that they could be saved.
 - Paul's desire to save them was so strong that he wished he could be accursed for their salvation; forever separated from his Savior.
- Yet Paul never speaks to us about God's comfort in this situation (at least as far as I can discern).
- This sorrow seems to have been what impelled Paul to so vigorously strive to teach those who often persecuted him.
- The comfort that Paul would find would happen when his kinsmen choose to believe in Jesus and be saved.

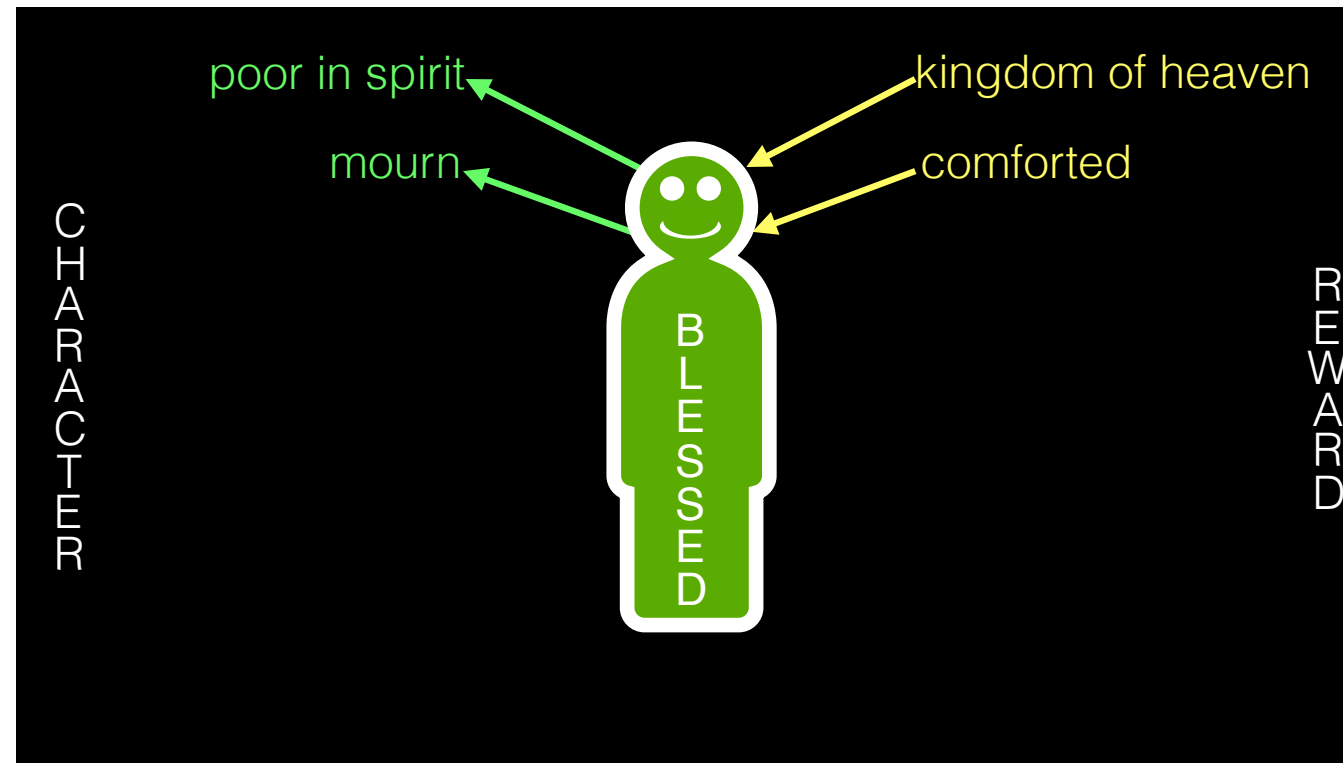


For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.”

Psalms 30:5

comforted

- "For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning." Psalms 30:5



- mourn - comforted

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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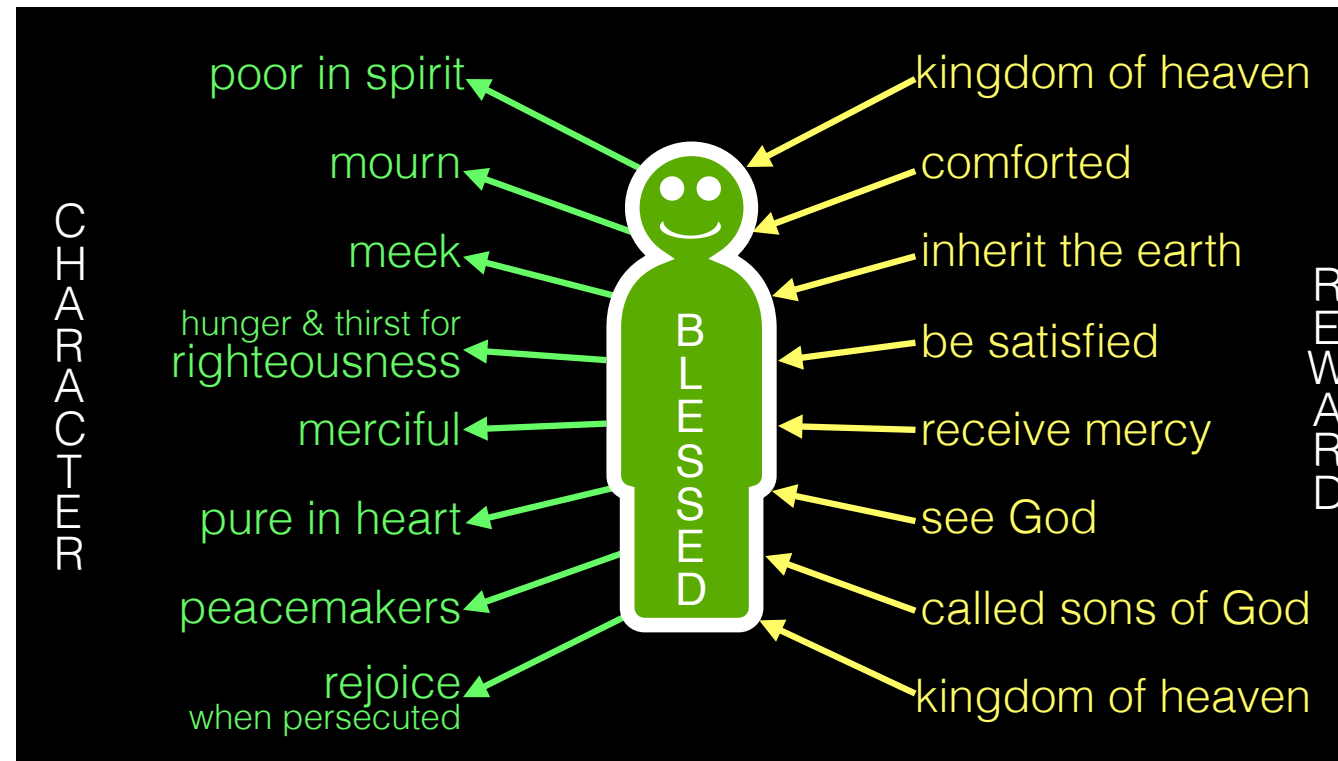
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- text

The Rewards - 1

Matthew 5:3-12

Synopsis: For each of the character traits, our Lord also explains the corresponding reward from God. Our Father rewards those who seek him and here we find wonderful reasons for making that choice in our lives. In this lesson, we'll discuss the importance of rewards, the kingdom of Heaven, and comfort.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."