

## Marinating in God's Word: Matthew 5:4, John 11:35

Where Jesus is there is blessing. It's basic to our new life in him. So we're exploring all the ways he blesses us, using his blessings in the gospels.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- What has been one of your happiest moments and saddest moments in the last year? We all have both happy and sad times. When you have had the Lord in mind, how has that shaped your response to happy and sad times?
- We tend to think of mourning in our sad times and situations as something we just have to get through until we again come to a place of the Lord's blessing. And yet Jesus blesses those who mourn (are mourning, not were mourning). How can that be?
- Jesus says his blessing brings comfort even in a mourning time. What kind of comfort do we need in sad times and situations?
- Jesus did not avoid those who mourned. He both spoke blessing and brought blessing. So we see in his visit to Mary and Martha when Lazarus died. Look at what Jesus said and did with them. How did he comfort? What does that tell you about the comfort he brings to us?
- Can we bear the blessing of Jesus to others, and particularly to those who mourn? How? What does and does not bring genuine comfort?

Next Sunday we will focus upon Matthew 5:5.