

## The Beatitudes

"Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh." Luke chapter 6 verse 21

Without wishing to revive the somewhat outdated impression that Christians are miserable all the time, we have to acknowledge some realities about life that Christians are supposed to take seriously.

When people say that the life of a Christian is intended to be free of troubles, they don't take into account the apostle Paul's words; *"Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."* To follow in the footsteps of Christ is to follow someone who suffered, and to say that we will never suffer is to discount the persecution and suffering of many millions of Christians throughout the ages.

And for all that a positive outlook and a healthy sense of humour are much prized in our culture, Christians are nevertheless called to come alongside those who are suffering. Paul encourages us to *"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."*

But Jesus is pointing out once again that sorrow and suffering in this world for his sake will be abundantly outweighed, not only by joy in this world, but by the eternal joy and laughter of heaven. To those who have fed the hungry, given water to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, visited the sick and imprisoned, he says *"Come you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*

But what awaits those who dedicate their lives to the pursuit of personal pleasure, never giving any thought to the call of Christ on their lives, their own spiritual growth or the suffering of others. They, according to Jesus, will come to a time when they will mourn and weep, as they realise that the pleasures they so diligently sought in this world were, after all, only temporary.

## Prayer

Father, In this world it is so easy for some of us to avoid persecution, hardship and suffering, and we don't enjoy acknowledging the fact that a measure of these things is inevitable when we follow you. Nevertheless, we pray that as and when they come into our lives, we will face them in your strength with courage and faith, and we ask that you will grant us the grace to turn our attention from ourselves to you and those who are in need of our compassion and help. In Jesus' name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*