

“I Need a Do Over”

Series: *No Perfect People Allowed*
(Part 2 of 4)

Discussion Starter: If you could go back and undo any day of your life, what day would you choose and why?

Explore: Read John 11:17-37.

Jesus was not immune to pain and suffering in life. Not only did he comfort those who were hurting; he also experienced every emotion known to man, including the heartache of losing a close friend.

1. Summarize what was happening when Jesus arrived at Bethany (see vs.17-19).
2. Who went out to meet Jesus (vs. 20-22)? What did she know to be true about Jesus and his ability to help her situation?
3. What message of hope did Jesus offer to Martha (vs. 23-27)? Do you believe this is what she wanted to hear?
4. How did Mary respond when she saw Jesus (vs. 28-37)? In what way is Jesus' response to the death of Lazarus an example for us to follow?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. How would you describe a “blessed” life?
2. Jesus often said things that run counter to what we believe to be true in life. What did Jesus mean when he said, “*Blessed are the poor in spirit,*” and “*Blessed are they that mourn*”?
3. How might the death of a loved one affect a person emotionally, physically, or spiritually? When have you experienced strength or comfort from God during a season of loss?
4. Read James 4:8-10. Why is repentance and mourning sin so important in the life of the believer?
5. Are there any obstacles that could prevent a person from allowing Jesus to comfort them in their time of need (mourning over loss or sin)? What can you say to someone who may be going through a season of mourning in their life?

Live:

As a group: Sub group into smaller groups (guys and gals). Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time to “weep, laugh, mourn, and dance.” Share how you are really doing on a personal level. Next, take time to rejoice or mourn with one another.

On your own: God wants you to live a “blessed” life. Part of being blessed is recognizing that we can count on God when things are not right in our lives. Take a moment to evaluate your willingness to allow God to give you what you need. Thank Him for being a source of comfort and strength to you.

Listening Guide Notes

^[1] “Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ^[2] and he began to teach them saying...” –**Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV)**

“... ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’” –**Matthew 5:3 (NIV)**

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” –**Matthew 5:4 (KJV)**

Blessed are those who...

1. Mourn over loss.

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” –**Romans 12:15 (NIV)**

“We do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.” –**1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NIV)**

2. Mourn over sin.

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” –**Matthew 5:4 (KJV)**

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.” –**Revelation 3:19 (NIV)**

^[8] “Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ^[9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ^[10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” –**James 4:8-10 (NIV)**

^[1] “Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

^[2] Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.” –**Psalms 32:1-2 (NIV)**

3. Allow Jesus to comfort.

“There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.” –**Ecclesiastes 3:4 (NIV)**

“For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.” –**Psalms 30:5 (NIV)**