

# I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY . . . .

A series by Andrea Kidd

## #3: "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted" - Matthew 5: 4

Mourning is painful. Mourning lets me say to myself, "You are deprived." Mourning is tears falling, sobs wrenching, my soul sinking into desolation.

This is a dangerous pursuit. Some have gone to this place and never come back. The deep, dark hole of grief swallows them and they never return.

Yet Jesus said that we are blessed, happy, benefitted, joyful and to be envied when we mourn! How can this be? Joy is so at odds with mourning.

All of us have mourned, are mourning or will mourn. We mourn a choice that has brought misery, we mourn a wrongdoing that we cannot rectify, we mourn the loss of a home, a child, a lover, a beloved pet. We mourn the violence in our world, the loneliness of a broken relationship, the broken world an innocent baby must face as he grows older. We mourn the severance from perfection, goodness and purity.

Yet, even if I am severed from all meaningful relationships in this world, I am not alone. My Maker is always present.

In love He created me. Being love Himself neither my missing the mark, my rebellion, my disappointment, nor my anger can prevent the flow of His love into me.

Jesus said, "I am the way". Mourning is the way through grief.



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Jesus said, "I am the truth". Glossing over the things I mourn, pushing them into a closet in my mind and slamming the door, is not facing the truth.

Jesus said. "I am the life". Mourning with Jesus is the pathway out of mourning towards life, eternal life that is not finalised by physical body deterioration. Life is stronger than death.

That "bottomless" pit has a Rock at the bottom.

That darkness has a Light in sight.

There is Truth in the swirling confusion.

That Rock, that Light, that Truth is Jesus, our God, our Creator, the Infinity beyond time, our Shepherd who picks up his precious, hurting lamb and sets him down on firm ground where the grass is green and the water clear.

There is a time and place in our lives to mourn; but we are not to mourn alone. There is well-trodden pathway, through the sorrow that many have already taken, hand in hand with Jesus.

True healing from the pain of mourning comes from Jesus Himself. That's why Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted".