



**“Blessed are those who are Persecuted”
Week 8 in a 9-week Series**

Preached: April 13, 2025
Scripture: Matthew 5:10-12
Series: “The Beatitudes” – Week 8 of 9

SECTION 1 – GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

1. When you think of the word “persecuted,” who or what comes to mind first? Why?
2. How do you think Jesus expected his disciples to react when they underwent persecution?
3. Has there been a time in your life when you experienced insults because of your faith in Christ? How did you respond? How did you want to respond?
4. Do you think Christians in the United States currently experience persecution like 1st century followers of Jesus? Why or why not?
5. Do you have an expectation that you will be persecuted for your faith? Why or why not?

6. This passage seems to indicate that we should rejoice when we experience any kind of persecution while serving Christ. Does that seem like a natural human response? What do you think is a natural response? How can we respond the way this passage instructs Christ followers to respond?

7. How do you know if you are being persecuted for the right things (aka righteousness) and not for just simply being obnoxious or rude?

SECTION 2 – PRAYER

Where do you need Jesus to meet you today as you are gathered together around God's Word? What are the things that we need to hold onto if we are to rejoice in our persecution? If we understand that persecution is a part of life that follows Jesus, how can we prepared for this persecution and how can we prepare to respond with joy?

SECTION 3 – SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Spend some time meditating over and praying about what it means to be a part of the Kingdom of Heaven. How can we live our lives so that the Kingdom of Heaven is more evident on the earth today? And as we do that, how can we prepared for the persecution that will naturally flow from such a life lived?

SECTION 4 – THINKING ABOUT MISSION

Are you not experiencing any persecution for your faith in your life? Why might that be? Are you living a life that conforms more to the world's standards, and as such, your life doesn't really look any different than everyone else's lives? What does it mean to live a life with the righteousness of Christ at the forefront of our earthly life?

SECTION 5 – ADDITIONAL STUDY

The Bible Project has a great Podcast that talks about the last three beatitudes. Take a listen and learn from their insights.

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/what-does-it-mean-make-peace-beatitudes-pt-4/>