

**Matthews Gospel "The Sermon On The Mount"**  
**"The Joy of Persecution"**  
**Matthew 5:10-12**  
**Part-15**

**Observations about this last Beatitude:**

1. It is the last Beatitude and serves as a test of all the others. Persecution is as much a normal mark of discipleship as being merciful is.
2. This 8th Beatitude is the longest of them all.
3. It is the only Beatitude with a command: "Rejoice and be glad."
4. It is the only Beatitude that has the word "blessed" used two times. It is as though Jesus is saying, "You are doubly blessed when you are persecuted."
5. It is the only Beatitude addressed directly to us. The tense changes from "blessed are those" in verse 10 to "blessed are you" in verse 11.
6. It is the only Beatitude with an explanation.
  - 2 Tim. 3:14

**We will ask 5 questions in our study this morning:**

1. Who Are The Blessed?
2. Who Are The Persecuted?
3. What Is The Persecution?
4. What is The Blessing of Being Persecuted?
5. How To Receive A Persecution That Is Blessed?

**1. Who Are The Blessed?**

- Matt 5:10

We're looking at The Sermon on The Mount, Matthew 5-7  
We're looking at the section called The Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-12

Beatitudes - means "have these attitudes"...beautiful attitudes  
(not DO-Attitudes)

"Blessed" "Oh how happy.....To be envied...happiness"

Blessed (divine happiness) is God's blessing and approval upon us,

Literally "The applause of heaven" a result of God Himself being pleased with us.

### **Beatitudes 1-4 Our Response to God:**

1# Beatitude is "Blessed is the Poor in spirit"

2# Beatitude is "Blessed are those who mourn"

3# Beatitude is "Blessed are the gentle"

4# Beatitude is "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness"

### **Beatitudes 5-8 Our Response to Man:**

5# Beatitude is "Blessed are the Merciful"

6# Beatitude is "Blessed are the Pure in heart"

7# Beatitude is "Blessed are the Peacemakers"

8# Beatitude is "Blessed are those who are Persecuted"

## **2. Who Are The Persecuted?**

### **8 - Things That Jesus did not mean about Persecution!**

1. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of politics

2. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of Environment

3. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of business

4. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of Race

- Matthew 5:5

5. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of being wrong in their Doctrine

6. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of

being a Nuisance and being Rude

7. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of being Zealous

8. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of being a Geek

- 1 Peter 3:16

- 1 Peter 4:14-16

**This Beatitude tells us that there are 2 reasons why we should Suffer persecuted.**

1. Because of the life we live: Matt 5:10 the sake of righteousness,

2. Because of the Lord we love: Matt 5:11 on account of Me.

### **1. Because of the life we live: Matt 5:10**

**righteousness** – “state of him who is as he ought to be, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting, **To be like Jesus**”

1. Positional - Justification
2. Practical - Experiential - submitting to Jesus Christ
3. Presence - Future Glorification

### **2. Because of the Lord we love: Matt 5:11**

The Disciples of Jesus experienced this Beatitude:

**James** - was beheaded. It is said that on his way to be martyred, his accuser was so impressed by his courage and conviction that he repented of his sin, committed himself to Christ, and was then beheaded along with James.

**Phillip** - was scourged, thrown into prison, and then crucified.

**Matthew** - was slain with a sword.

**James** - the Less was stoned to death.

**Matthias** - was stoned and then beheaded.

**Andrew** - was crucified and then left hanging on the cross for three days.

**Peter** - was crucified upside down at his own request because he did not feel worthy enough to be crucified in the same manner as the Lord.

**Jude** - (Thaddeus) was crucified.

**Bartholomew** - was beaten with clubs and then crucified.

**Thomas** - was speared to death.

**Simon the Zealot** - was crucified.

**John** - was exiled to an island called Patmos where he died as a prisoner.

- John 15:18-20
- John 16:33
- Matt 24:9
- 1 Peter 4:12-14

### **3. What Is The Persecution?**

- Matt 5:11

when men cast insults at you, revile - (lit) "Cast at one's teeth, cast at face, abuse one with vile, vicious mocking words" - Curse at, make fun of - Hurtful words. To be insulted speaks of misrepresentations that degrade another's reputation and is closely related to slander. This often takes the form of verbal abuse and insulting language.

- Luke 6:22

and persecute you, "To pursue, drive, chase away - harassed (even death) to be hunted down as an animal." The tense of the verb suggests those "who have allowed themselves to be persecuted" or "have endured it." It can be defined as repeatedly raiding another, or as continually annoying someone."

and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, - "slander - to lie about -

To damage a persons character"

- Psalm 35:11

Notice What The Reaction Should Be! • Matt 5:12

"Rejoice, and be glad, (KJV) Rejoice and be exceedingly glad" Lit.  
"Jump, skip and shout for joy."

- Acts 5:40-41

How could we and why would we respond this way? It is because of what we know!

#### **4. What is The Blessing of Being Persecuted?**

##### **5 - Blessings that will result from Persecution:**

1. Blessed - God gives an inner Joy

- 10 "Blessed are those
- 11 "Blessed are you
- 12 "Rejoice, and be glad,

2. Rewards in Heaven are great

- Heb. 11:26 Moses was looking to the reward

3. We belong to Him - Identity – Proof

- Heb 11:36-39

4. Purifies the Believer: • 1 Pet. 5:10

5. Jesus is with us when we are Persecuted

- 1 Pet. 4:14

- Acts 7:55

#### **5. How To Receive A Persecution That Is Blessed?**

##### **7 Positions to take for Jesus Christ:**

1. Tell People The Problem Of The World Is Sin
2. Tell People The World Is Lost Without Jesus

3. Tell People Jesus Is The Only Way
4. Tell People They Will Be Judged On The Basis Of Receiving Or Rejecting Jesus Christ
5. Tell People It Matters In Eternity How We Live Now
6. Tell People There Is A Literal Heaven And Hell To Which Every Person Will Spend Eternity In One Of Two Places
7. Tell People That The Entire Bible Is The Absolute Word Of God

**Let me ask a few questions in closing:**

1. What have we done in the last month that has caused anyone to challenge our faith?
2. When have we risked speaking out for Jesus?
3. How have we defended the cause of Christ?
4. Have we identified ourselves as a follower Christ?