

The Blessed Life - #8

Matthew 5:1-8 *“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are _____ because of _____, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when they insult and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

As a child of God, you are blessed by Him. The Bible says, your Heavenly Father *“has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” Eph. 1:3*

Proverbs 4:18 says, *“The path of the just is like the shining sun, that _____ ever brighter unto the perfect day.”*

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- The blessed life is a life of _____.
- Not only hungering and thirsting for righteousness, but living it in an unrighteous world.
- Jesus is warning His disciples that living righteously can cause persecution.
- In Matthew 24:9 Christ taught that in the end times believers will be hated by all nations because of Him.

What Does it Mean to be Persecuted?

The word “persecuted” means to _____ or _____. It can also be translated _____.

In verse 11, Christ says, *“Blessed are you ‘when’ people insult you”*.

- Persecuted is a passive perfect participle and could thus be translated allow themselves to be persecuted.
- Believers are to be _____ to undergo persecution in order to pursue righteousness, preach truth, to honor God, bear their cross for Christ’s sake.

3 Types of Persecution

1. _____ literally means *to cast in one's teeth*. This refers to people negatively talking about believers to their faces.
2. _____ in the context of verse 11 refers to physical abuse, such as imprisonment.
3. "Falsely _____ *all kinds of evil against you*" refers to being talked about behind their backs.

3 Reasons Why Believers are Persecuted

1. For _____.
2. On Account Of _____ (Jesus).
 - > These 2 statements are clearly parallel, meaning nearly the same thing.
 - > Example: Cain & Abel
 - > When people are living in sin, they will dislike those living in righteousness.
 - Example: an honest person
 - Story of Daniel the prophet
3. As A Result Of _____.

- In Job 1, when God drew attention to Job's righteousness, it led Satan to accuse Job and seek permission to afflict him.
- Job was attacked because of his righteousness.
- This commonly happens to believers, especially when they are on fire for God.
- Satan will afflict them because of their righteousness in order to deter them in their mission for God, or living for God.

Persecution is Experienced in 3 Ways

1. Persecution often manifested in one's _____.
2. Persecution often manifested in one's _____.
3. Persecution often manifested in one's _____.

NEVERTHELESS... OUR _____ IS TO DO WHAT JESUS SAYS... " _____!"

"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Paul the Apostle's exhortation **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** ***"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and***

eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Concluding Thoughts:

- Blessed are those who are persecuted- your reward is great!
- Like Daniel, you must not cave under political, corporate, or social pressure!
- Like Charles Spurgeon, preachers must not grow weary.
- Job underwent a spiritual attack not because he was unrighteous, but rather righteous.

Declaration:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Son, my Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for the blessed life you promised. I will not allow persecution to keep me from doing your will, sharing your truth, and living right in an unrighteous world. Empower me with your Holy Spirit and boldness. In the mighty name of Jesus I pray, Amen.