

## Sermon Notes

**Big Idea:** Jesus' first sermon was designed to help his followers redefine what a relationship with God was truly about. The blessed life can be measured by how well you display certain Christ-like qualities. Jesus knows that only those with courageous faith can endure the unique blessing of persecution.

**The Christian life is not primarily about what you're doing, but who you're becoming.**

**Matthew 5:1-16 (NIV)**

**Step 1: Humility | Step 2: Brokenness | Step 3: Surrender | Step 4: Dependence**

**Result 1: Mercy | Result 2: Authenticity | Result 3: Peace | Result 4: Courageous Faith**

**John 3:16-21 (NLT) 2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV)**

**Persecution → Purity → Power → Progress → Persecution**

### The Places of Persecution

- From the Culture
- From the "Church" **John 15:18-20 (NLT)**
- From Your Family and Friends

**What's more important to you... The approval of the people, or the favor of God?**

**Hebrews 11:24-26 (NIV)**

## Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Who is the most 'courageous' person you know when it comes to their faith in Jesus and bold example in life? Explain.
- 3) Have you ever experienced a form of persecution / insults / slander due to your faith and loyalty to Jesus? How did you respond?
- 4) Which of *The Places of Persecution* do you interact with most regularly? Can you think of another place where persecution comes from in your life?
- 5) Read Hebrews 11:24-26. How would you answer the question, *What's more important to you, the approval of the people or the favor of God?*