



True NORTH

PRIORITIES FROM THE PARABLES

A person stands on dark, jagged rocks in the foreground, their back to the camera as they gaze across a calm body of water. The horizon is marked by distant, silhouetted mountains. The sky is a dramatic canvas of orange, yellow, and purple clouds, with a bright light source breaking through on the left. A large, white compass rose is superimposed over the person's lower body, pointing towards the horizon. The words 'True' and 'NORTH' are written in a stylized font above the compass rose.

True
NORTH

THE BEST?



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them saying...

MATTHEW 5:1-2

Blessed are the...



BIG ROCKS FIRST

"Seek first the kingdom of God"

- 1. HUMILITY** THE POOR IN SPIRIT
- 2. EMPATHY** THOSE WHO MOURN
- 3. SELF-CONTROL** THE MEEK
- 4. OBEDIENCE** HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
- 5. COMPASSION** THE MERCIFUL
- 6. PURITY** THE PURE IN HEART
- 7. PEACEMAKING** THE PEACEMAKERS
- 8. FAITHFULNESS** THE PERSECUTED

Priorities from the Beatitudes



Eighth Beatitude

**Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake, for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven.**

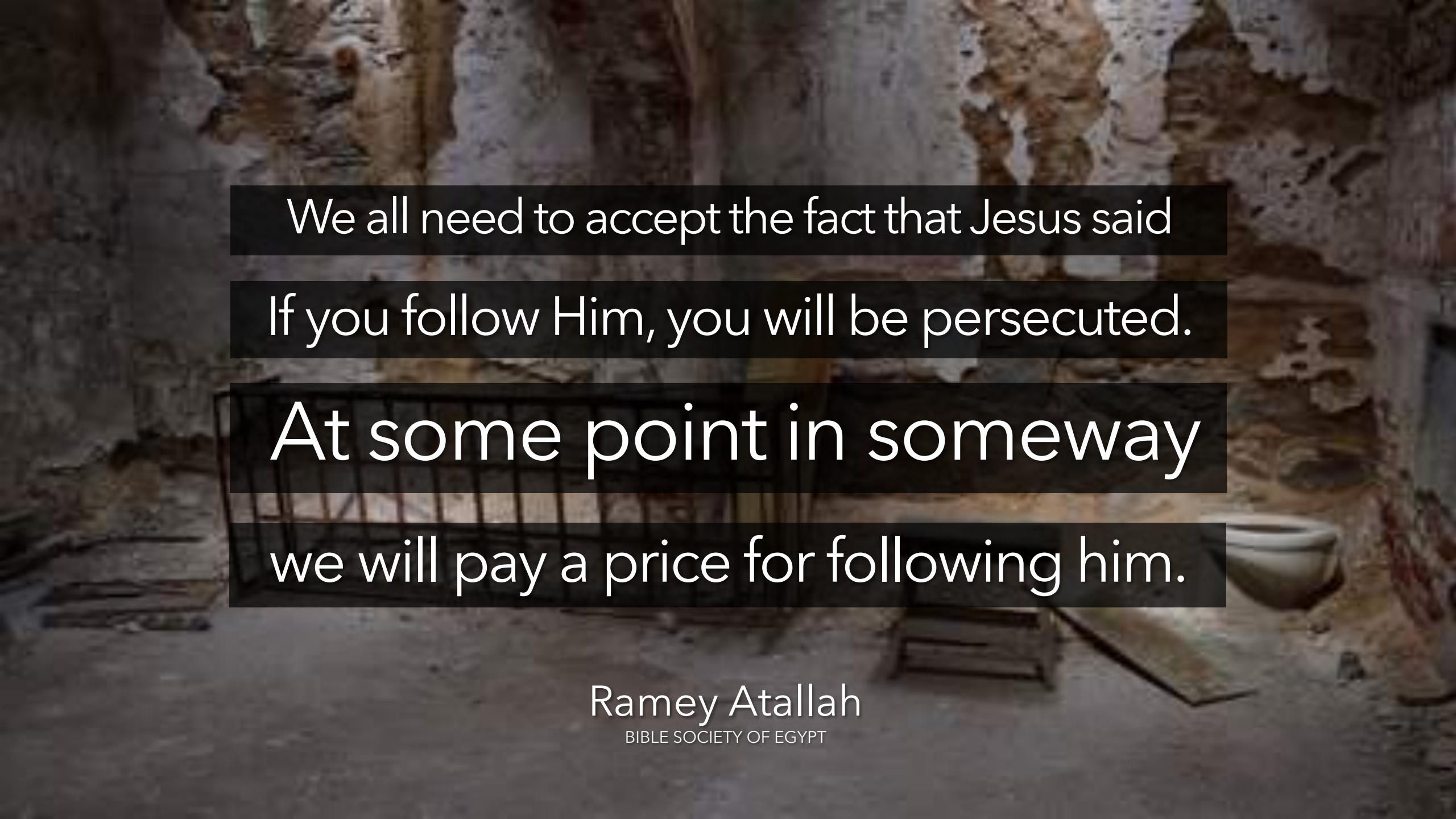
Matthew 5:10



Eighth Beatitude

**Blessed are you when others revile you
and persecute you and utter all kinds of
evil against you falsely on my account.**

Matthew 5:11



We all need to accept the fact that Jesus said
If you follow Him, you will be persecuted.
At some point in someway
we will pay a price for following him.

Ramey Atallah
BIBLE SOCIETY OF EGYPT

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white cardigan over a black top, stands in the center of the frame. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a dark, industrial or underground setting with rough, textured walls and a large, dark 'X' structure. In the distance, a small figure of a person is visible, carrying a large cross-like object. The overall atmosphere is somber and mysterious.

"THE 8TH STUDENT"

TODAY IN THE WORD

2020 PERSECUTION



EACH MONTH

322 CHRISTIANS ARE
KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH



214 CHURCHES AND
CHRISTIAN **PROPERTIES**
ARE DESTROYED



772 FORMS OF **VIOLENCE**
ARE COMMITTED AGAINST
CHRISTIANS (SUCH AS BEATINGS, ABDUCTIONS,
RAPES, ARRESTS AND FORCED MARRIAGES)





Persecutions are beneficial to the righteous.

They are the hail of precious stones,

which, it is true, rob the vine of her leaves,

but give her possessor a more precious treasure instead.

#truenorthseries



Eighth Beatitude

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

Matthew 5:12

"Cast Alongside"

TENANT FARMERS

MATTHEW 21: 33-42



V. The Vineyard

MATTHEW 21: 33-42



The Vineyard

MATTHEW 21: 33-42

MASTER

GOD THE FATHER

VINEYARD

NATION OF ISRAEL

TENANT FARMERS

ISRAEL & ITS RELIGIOUS LEADERS

SERVANTS

THE PROPHETS

THE SON

JESUS

FRUITFUL TENANTS

APOSTLES & THE CHURCH



THE VINEYARD

Hear another parable. There was a a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants and went to another country.

Matthew 21:33-42



THE VINEYARD

When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.

Matthew 21:33-42

The background image is a photograph of a vineyard at sunset. In the foreground, a wooden fence runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the middle ground. To the left of the fence, there are rows of grapevines. In the background, there are rolling hills under a sky with soft, golden light from the setting sun. A large tree is visible on the right side of the frame.

THE VINEYARD

**And the tenants took his servants
and beat one, killed another,
and stoned another.**

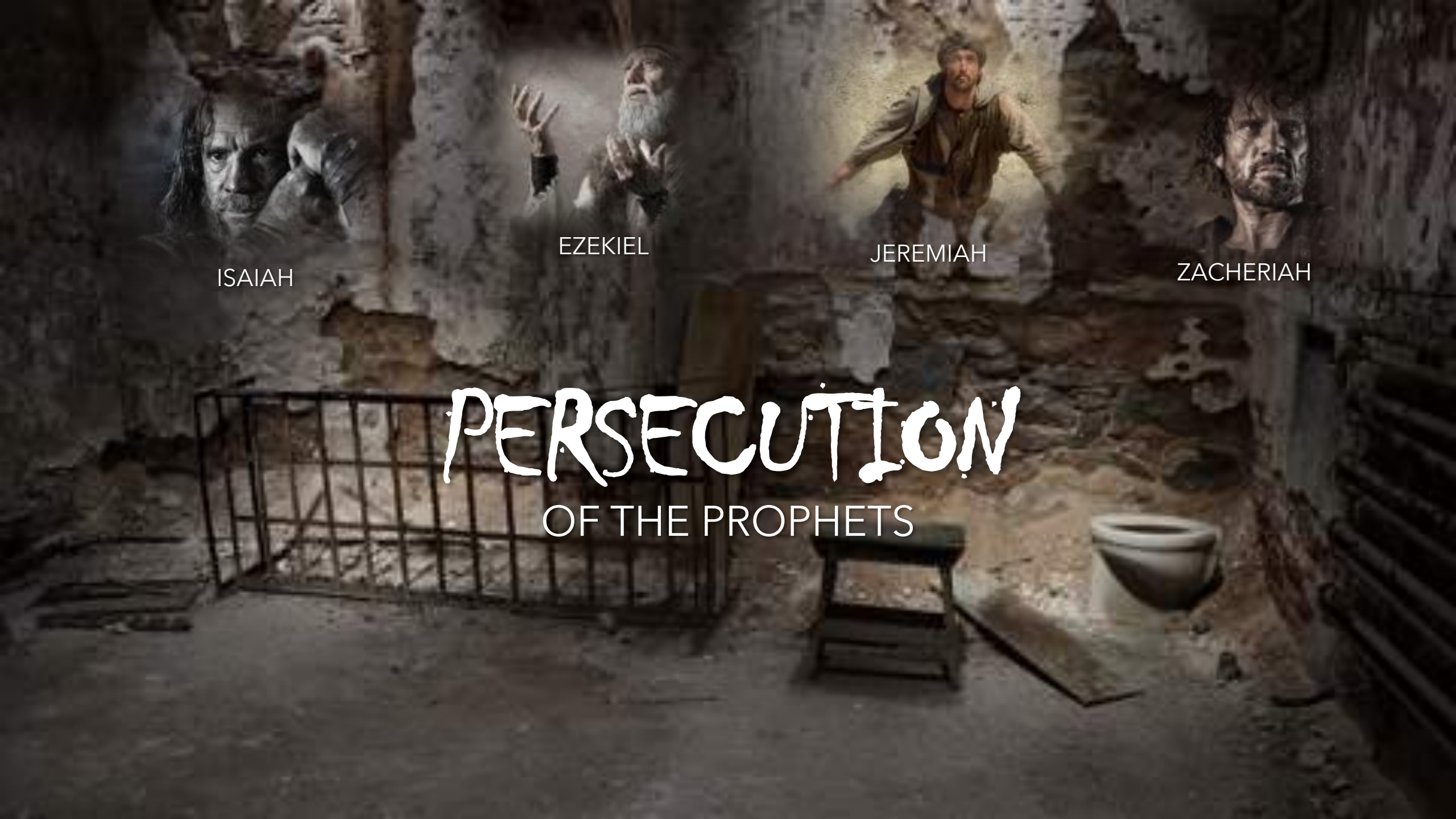
Matthew 21:33-42



THE VINEYARD

**Again he sent other servants,
more than the first. And they
did the same to them.**

Matthew 21:33-42



ISAIAH

EZEKIEL

JEREMIAH

ZACHERIAH

PERSECUTION


OF THE PROPHETS

A photograph of a vineyard at sunset. In the foreground, a wooden fence runs diagonally across the frame. To the left, there are rows of grapevines. In the background, there are rolling hills under a sky with soft, golden light from the setting sun. A large tree is visible on the right side of the image.

THE VINEYARD

**Finally he sent his son to them,
saying, 'They will respect my son.'**

Matthew 21:33-42

A hand holding a compass on a mountain peak with a valley in the background. The background shows a vast mountain range under a hazy sky, with a green and brown mountain slope in the foreground. A hand is visible in the lower center, holding a compass. The text is overlaid on the image in three separate black boxes with white text.

God so loves the world,
yet the world so hates Him.
But He just keeps coming.

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THE VINEYARD

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.'

Matthew 21:33-42



THE VINEYARD

**And they took him and threw him
out of the vineyard and killed him.**

Matthew 21:33-42



THE VINEYARD

**When therefore the owner of
the vineyard comes, what will
he do to those tenants?**

Matthew 21:33-42



THE VINEYARD

They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

Matthew 21:33-42



THE VINEYARD

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures?"

Matthew 21:33-42

CORNERSTONE

**"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone; this
was the Lord's doing, and it is
marvelous in our eyes."**

Matthew 21:33-42

A close-up photograph of a brick wall. The wall is constructed from reddish-brown bricks with a rough, textured surface. A single, light-colored, rectangular stone block is embedded in the wall, serving as a cornerstone. The stone has a mottled appearance with shades of light gray and beige. The text "CORNERSTONE" is overlaid in bold black letters on the left side of the stone. On the right side of the stone, the words "Capstone", "Keystone", and "Cornerstone" are listed vertically in white text.

CORNERSTONE

Capstone
Keystone
Cornerstone



1964



1972

The image shows a close-up of a stone wall. On the left side, there is a single, rectangular, white stone. To its right, the wall is composed of several rectangular grey stones. The stones have a rough, textured surface. The word "JESUS" is written in large, bold, black capital letters across the white stone.

JESUS

"THIS JESUS IS THE STONE THAT WAS REJECTED BY YOU, THE BUILDERS, WHICH HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE" ACTS 4:11

THE KINGDOM

**Therefore I tell you, the kingdom
of God will be taken away from
you and given to a people
producing its fruits.**

Matthew 21:33-42



CORNERSTONE

**And the one who falls on this
stone will be broken to pieces;
and when it falls on anyone,
it will crush him.**

Matthew 21:33-42



THE TENANT FARMERS

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.


Matthew 21:33-42



Eighth Beatitude

**Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake, for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:10

A hand holding a compass, with a mountain range in the background. The hand is wearing a dark jacket. The compass is a vintage-style metal compass with a black face and white markings. The background shows a vast mountain landscape with green slopes and distant peaks under a hazy sky.

Why was Jesus and His followers so despised?

Because theirs is the kingdom
the enemy of this world desires.

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MIRROR PRINCIPLE



"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like."

JAMES 1: 23-24


A hand holding a compass on a mountain peak with a valley in the background.

TRUE NORTH LIVING SAYS

I will rejoice in the blessing that will come
if at some point I must pay a price
for living out the priorities of Christ.

"Blessed are the persecuted."

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The background image is a dark, grainy photograph of an interior space. The walls are heavily damaged, with large patches of peeling paint or plaster revealing a rough, textured surface underneath. In the foreground, there is a rusty, rectangular metal cage or enclosure. To the right of the cage, there is a simple wooden bench or stool. The overall atmosphere is one of decay and neglect.

7 WAYS A BELIEVER CAN PREPARE FOR

PERSECUTION?

MATTHEW 10:16-23

**Behold, I am sending
you out as sheep in the
midst of wolves, so
be wise as serpents
and innocent as doves.**

MATT. 10:16-23



**Beware of men, for they
will deliver you over to
courts and flog you in
their synagogues, and
you will be dragged
before governors and
kings for my sake, to
bear witness before
them and the Gentiles.**

MATT. 10:16-23



**When they deliver you over,
do not be anxious how you
are to speak or what you are
to say, for what you are to say
will be given to you in that
hour. For it is not you who
speak, but the Spirit of your
Father speaking through you.**

MATT. 10:16-23



**Brother will deliver brother
over to death, and the
father his child, and children
will rise against parents and
have them put to death, and
you will be hated by all for
my name's sake.**

MATT. 10:16-23



**When they persecute
you in one town, flee to
the next, for truly, I say to
you, you will not have
gone through all the
towns of Israel before
the Son of Man comes.**

MATT. 10:16-23



7 Ways Jesus prepared His disciples for...

PERSECUTION?

1. PLAN WITH PRUDENCE

"Be wise as serpents..."

2. REMAIN INNOCENT

"Be innocent as doves..."

3. ANTICIPATE ACCUSATION

"Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to the courts."

4. DO NOT BE ANXIOUS

"For what you are to say will be given to you."

5. EXPECT TO BE HATED

"They will hate you because of me."

6. KEEP GOING

"Flee to the next town."

7. AWAIT A 'GREAT REWARD'

"The Son of Man is coming."

MATTHEW 10: 16-23



PETER: crucified upside down by Nero

SIMON: crucified in Persia

THOMAS: stabbed by a spear in India

PHILLIP: hung upside down by iron hooks

MATTHEW: impaled by spears in Ethiopia

JOHN: died in exile on island of Patmos

JAMES: thrown off a wall and clubbed to death
Son of Alphaeus



LAUNCHING OUT IN FAITH **THIS FALL**



PIONEERS

THE **ACTS** OF THE APOSTLES



True NORTH

"Blessed are those who...

< Notes

8 PRIORITIES OF THE FAITHFUL AMID PERSECUTION

1. Plan with prudence and wisdom
2. Beware of Accusation
3. Stay innocent before God
4. Don't be anxious about future struggles
5. Expect God Sightings
6. The hate isn't personal
7. Just keep going
8. Rewards are piling up