

Joy In the Crossfire

October 18, 2026 | Matthew 5:10-12 | Pastor Jaye Rice

Passage Outline

1. The Reality - Expect Opposition (v. 10)
2. The Reason - Identify with Jesus (v. 11)
3. The Response - Rejoice in Hope (v. 12)

Main Idea

Those who faithfully follow Jesus and live according to His righteousness may face opposition and persecution, but they can rejoice because they belong to His kingdom and have an eternal reward that far outweighs any momentary troubles.

Leader's Note

Choose the questions below that best fit your group and the time available. You do not need to discuss every question. However, we strongly recommend covering at least one question from each section: Upwards, Inwards, and Outwards.

Discussion Questions

UPWARDS - Growing in Relationship with God

1. How does Jesus' promise that "theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (v. 10) help us value God's approval above the world's acceptance?
2. How does our willingness to remain faithful to Jesus, even when it costs us something, demonstrate our love for and devotion to Him?
3. Jesus calls us to rejoice because our reward in heaven is great (v. 12). How can focusing on God's eternal promises deepen our trust in Him and shape the way we worship Him today?

INWARDS - Becoming More Like Jesus

4. How do we typically respond when our faith or Christian values are criticized? What would it look like to respond more like Jesus?
5. How might the fear of rejection cause us to compromise our Christian convictions? What is one area of your life where you need to grow in courage and obedience to Jesus?
6. How could focusing more on eternity change your attitudes, decisions, and responses to difficult circumstances today?

OUTWARDS - Reaching Those Around Us

7. How can we live out the values of Jesus in our homes, workplaces, and communities in ways that point others toward Him, even when those values are unpopular?
8. When people criticize or misunderstand our Christian faith, how can we respond with grace, humility, and love in ways that create opportunities to share the gospel?
9. If following Jesus sometimes comes at a cost, how can our courage, joy, and hope in Him become a compelling witness to those around us who do not yet know Him?



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