

I. The Burdens: Where We Must Walk as Christians (10-12)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

A. The reason for persecution (10a, 11b) - “...for righteousness’ sake...on My account.”

B. The mode of persecution (11a) - “...when others revile you and persecute you, utter all kinds of evil against you falsely...”

C. The response to this persecution (12a) - “Rejoice and be glad...”

D. The precedent for persecution (12b) - “...they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

V. The Blessings: Where We Arrive As Christians (3-12)

A. We have a guaranteed inheritance (3, 5) “...theirs is the kingdom of heaven...for they shall inherit the earth.”

B. We are promised relief (4) “...for they shall be comforted.”

C. We experience fullness in life (6) “...for they shall be satisfied.”

D. We receive mercy (7) - “...for they shall receive mercy.”

E. We experience intimacy with God (8) - “...for they shall see God.”

F. We resemble and reflect God (9) - “...for they shall be called sons of God.”

G. We have great reward awaiting us (12) - “...for your reward is great in heaven...”

The word BLESSED indicates that Jesus is saying, “Oh how happy are they!”

The reason that repentant, broken, meek, thirsting, merciful, pure-hearted, peacemaking, persecuted people are happy is because:

They are inheriting the Kingdom of God both now and forever (3, 10)

They receive their comfort from the heart of God (4)

They understand that all that is denied them now will one day be under their rule (5)

They alone are the only ones who can be completely satisfied (6)

They experience God’s mercy (7)

They are experiencing intimacy with God now, and will do so forever (8)

They are fulfilling the will of God in that they are taking on His character so much that they are known as His children (9)

They are promised a great reward when their life is over (12)