

GOD'S WAY TO HAPPINESS – PART 8
Matthew 5:1-12

The happy life is the persecuted life

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
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. (10-12)*

When you are persecuted...

Do not give up

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are
hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed– always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of
Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 2 Corinthians 4:7-10*

Focus on the eternal

*Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial
of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two,
were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute,
afflicted, tormented– of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and
caves of the earth. Hebrews 11:35-38*

Rejoice that you are becoming like Jesus

*Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing
happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed,
you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 1 Peter 4:12-13*