

NORMS FOR THE KINGDOM:

“Persecution”

Matthew 5:10–12

Curiosities

1. The Cause of Persecution

2. The Form of Persecution

3. The Result of Persecution

4. Why Persecution?

5. How to Survive Persecution

Life Group Questions
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Opener: Back in the day, on the school playground, were you the bully or the one being bullied?

1. Review Matthew 5:3-9. How does this Beatitude build on the previous Beatitudes?
2. If peacemaking is sharing the message of reconciliation between God and man, what is the relationship between peacemaking and persecution?
3. Read John 15:18-20; 2 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14. What are some reasons that disciples of Jesus are persecuted?
4. Read Matthew 5:10-11. How would you define persecution? Are there levels of persecution?
 - a. How would you define “righteousness” as it is used here? How does that relate to the phrase “on my account” in verse 11?
5. Read Acts 5:41; Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.
 - a. How should believers respond to persecution?
 - b. What are some results of responding well to persecution?
6. Both the first and last Beatitude end with “theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” What do you think that means?
7. Is persecution a necessary result of living a full Christian life? Can one be a committed Christian without ever experiencing persecution? Why or why not?
8. How has the sermon and this discussion impacted your view of persecution?

Memory Verses: Matthew 5:3–10 ESV

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”