

The Identity of True Bliss

Matthew 5:10-12 & Selected Scriptures

Introduction:

Biblical Joy: *An unspeakable gladness, a gift from God that refreshes our soul.*

The Eighth Beatitude: Matthew 5:10-12

Jesus warned: **John 15:20** *"If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also."* **John 16:33** *"In this world you will have trouble."*

The Identity of True Bliss Includes. . .

I. Clarifying the Issue of following Jesus.

- **"Righteousness"** = **"right"** - means **"straight."**
- **Here's the Truth:** *Persecution* is a _____ your life is *straight* in the eyes of the world.

For those whose lives are *straight*:

1. *Revile you* = *"to cast into the teeth."*
2. *Persecution* = to pursue, chase, harass, pressure.
3. *Utter. . .evil* = people will tell deliberate lies about us.

II. Paying the Price of following Jesus.

1. We must commit to _____ consistently like Jesus.

2. We _____ defend what is right and oppose what is wrong.

Esther 4:14, *"Who knows but you have been brought up for this very hour?"*

3. Our priority is to _____ when we face opposition.
 - a. Because of our _____ - we have a great reward in heaven.
 - b. Because of our _____ - we join our righteous ancestors.

III. Receiving the Blessing of following Jesus.

When we walk in *righteousness*, the world *persecutes* us, God *blesses* us, and we *rejoice*.

- **Here's the True:** *Persecution* is the _____ that God to pour out His *blessings* on our life, which _____ us to *rejoice*.

Conclusion: Jesus promised that *"Great is your reward in heaven."*

Verse for July 2023 - Psalm 5:11 (ESV) *"Let all who take refuge in You rejoice, let them ever sing for joy, and spread Your protection over them."*

My Commitment: *"Lord, based upon what I heard You say to me this morning I choose to obey You by. . ."*

Our Fellowship: Before you leave ask someone: *"What did God say to you today?"*

Deuteronomy 30:14 (TM) *The Word is right here and now - as near as the tongue in your mouth, as near as the heart in your chest. Just do it!*