

Discussion Guide

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Message: *Blessed Are the Persecuted* (series: # Blessed)

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PRIMARY PASSAGE: Matthew 5:10-12 (ESV)

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHT

We often think of the persecution of Christians as something really horrible and unfortunate, which is true. However, Jesus portrays it in a positive light as something that makes one to be blessed. This blessedness for the believer is a great reward in the future and brings great rejoicing in the present.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What exactly is the cause of persecution against Christians?
2. Why should we think of persecution as a blessing rather than a misfortune?
3. How are Christians being persecuted here in the United States and in different parts of the world today?
4. What might be right and wrong responses by Christians to unjust mistreatments that they face?
5. In what particular ways can we support Christians who are facing persecution in different parts of the world today?

Dear Heavenly Father, give us the understanding to see being persecuted for Christ as a blessing rather than a problem. Grant to us the courage to face it boldly when it comes our way, and fill us with the desire to support believers who are currently experiencing it around the world—in Jesus's name. Amen!