

## Sermon Summary

This week Pastor Brett gives us directional insight on how to endure during seasons of persecution. In Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus presents a series of blessings, declaring the virtues and qualities that bring true happiness and divine favor. Ranging from humility and mercy to peacemaking and enduring persecution, the Beatitudes challenge conventional notions of success and happiness. They advocate for a transformative righteousness rooted in a deep connection with God and a genuine concern for others.

**Key Passage:** Matthew 5:1-12

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

#### Grow

How challenging is it to "rejoice and be glad" in the face of persecution or reviling? Can you think of examples, either from the Bible or personal experiences, where individuals rejoiced in the midst of persecution?

How can we balance the call to rejoice with a sense of empathy and compassion for those experiencing persecution?

How do you respond to the concept of being persecuted for righteousness' sake? What challenges might arise in living out this principle?

#### Go

Consider practical ways to apply the encouragement to rejoice in persecution in our daily lives. How can we support one another in living out this aspect of our faith?

How can a deep understanding of God's promises, including the reward in heaven, help build resilience in the face of adversity?

Discuss the idea that enduring persecution for righteousness' sake is part of the broader call to live a righteous and Christlike life.