



Persecuted for Righteousness Sake

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. Matthew 5:10-12

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Which one of the beatitudes is most difficult for you to embrace?
- What does religious persecution look like in the US today?
- How does it look different in other countries around the world?

Study Read Matthew 5:1-12 & I Peter 2:20-24

- Which of the eight beatitudes is the most challenging for you to embrace? Why?
- In Matthew 5:10-12 Jesus gives us one of the most challenging elements to happiness. What makes it so difficult for us, particularly in America?
- In I Peter 2:20-24 Peter offers perspective to new Jesus followers that were dealing with incredible persecution. How would you summarize his encouragement to them?
- Why are we so often prone to allow resistance or discomfort to keep us from doing what is right? What does it take to push through that?
- Peter uses Jesus as the ultimate example of one who was persecuted for righteousness sake. He then calls us to follow His lead? Is this a fair expectations? Is it even possible?

Consider Respond to each of these. Agree? Disagree? Why?

- We will inevitably suffer for either doing right or for doing wrong. Happiness only comes from suffering for doing right.
- An authentic Christian life is impossible to live without experience some form of persecution. Happiness comes from both expecting and embracing it when it comes.

Apply

Being persecuted for righteousness sake means allowing yourself to be the offended party, be treated unfairly, or miss out for the sake of Christ. How do I begin to apply this in my current situation? (Work, Home, Church, Community, etc.)

Giving Up Your Rights For His Renown