



THE BEATITUDES



A BLESSED LIFE IN A BROKEN WORLD

- **The blessed life according to Jesus goes against the world's definition of being blessed.**
- **This countercultural and counter-intuitive life is the expectation of Kingdom citizens.**
- **The beatitudes are not a checklist of things to do for Jesus, but rather a description of a lifestyle empowered by the Holy Spirit and blessed by God even when trials and difficulties come.**

“It is important to note that the Sermon on the Mount is *descriptive* before it is *prescriptive*. It describes what the Christian IS before talking of what the Christian should DO. For Jesus, obedience grows out of blessedness; the statement of our condition precedes the demands of our discipleship.”

-Iain Campbell in *Opening up Matthew*

Mathew 5:3-12 NIV

**3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.**

**5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.**

**6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.**

**7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.**

**8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.**

**9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

**10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- **Bible study note: When more emphasis is placed, more attention is expected.**
- **Emphasis comes through repetition, restatement, comparison, and explanation.**
- **The one-liners of the beatitudes move to 3 verses on the blessing of being persecuted.**
- **What is the significance of this change?**
- **What exactly is Jesus expecting from His followers?**

1. to harass in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict; *specifically*: to cause to suffer because of belief
2. to annoy with persistent or urgent approaches (as attacks, pleas, or importunities)

•There's a beatitude and blessing on persecution?!

•I thought suffering and persecution were signs of God's displeasure...

- Persecution for righteousness sake is the important distinction.

- “The purest form of righteousness is pursued by disciples who know that their good deeds will demand great sacrifice and will result in pain rather than immediate reward.”

-R.H. Stein

- Why would there be persecution for being the person...
- Courageously living for Jesus Christ?
- Actively pursuing righteousness?
- Completely orienting life toward God and His will?

- **The person fully living the beatitudes kind of life is going more and more against the tide of our self-centered and man-pleasing culture that opposes truly righteous living.**
- **We should look different, act differently, speak differently than the world around us.**
- **It should not surprise us that following Jesus brings challenge and opposition.**

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me." Mathew 5:11

- **The blessing is repeated and then explained...**
- **Persecution will come, sometimes verbally and sometimes violently.**
- **“Because of me” = for the sake of righteousness**

- This is not an isolated verse nor is persecution an isolated concept.
- Luke 6:22-23
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-11
- 2 Timothy 3:10-14
- 1 Peter 4:12-16
- In each of these passages, and others like them, persecution is an expectation for the Christian life, but so also is the blessing and provision of Christ while experiencing persecution.

- **Our responses to persecution cannot be to avoid it or ignore it.**
- **We are called to be salt and light and city on a hill!**
- **“To endure persecution for the sake of righteousness requires uncompromising faithfulness to God despite every threat and pressure.”**
- **GotQuestions.org**

Matthew 5:43-45a

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”

1 Peter 5:8-10

" Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. "

**10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...**

**12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for
in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

- “Rather than feeling discouraged, dismayed, enraged, or depressed, believers who find themselves persecuted for openly living for Christ and His kingdom have good reason to rejoice and be glad—for their reward in heaven is great.” -GotQuestions.org
- Remember the promises of God as you encounter various trials and choose to rejoice.
- Romans 8:31-38

