

- D. The only way to face persecution is to keep the right **focus** and that focus is **Jesus**.

“2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”
Hebrews 12:2-3

- E. Don't forget this beatitude comes with a **reward** and a double **blessing**.

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.”
Hebrews 10:35

V. **THIS IS THE **DEMONSTRATION** BEATITUDE. IT SHOWS THAT WE ARE PART OF THE **FAMILY**.**

“44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

Matthew 5:44:45

CONCLUSION: Are You Happy?

“...happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.”

Psalm 144:15b

COME ON GET HAPPY

Happy Are the Harassed

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INTRODUCTION

- A. Isn't everyone searching for true happiness? We all know life is hard and these are difficult times. People are searching and wanting to know how they can find real happiness in a fake world. Does this sound like you? Are you unfulfilled and unhappy?

“Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”

John 16:22

- B. Join me in this nine week series as we learn how to find real happiness in a fake world.

Oct 3	Happiness Is...
Oct 10	Happy Are The Nobodies - Conquering Your Pride
Oct 17	Happy Are The Sad - Healing Your Broken Heart
Oct 24	Happy Are The Meek - Controlling Your Reactions
Oct 31	Happy Are The Hungry - Satisfying Your Emptiness
Nov 7	Happy Are The Merciful - Giving Your Heart
Nov 14	Happy Are The Holy - Maintaining Your Purity
Nov 21	Happy Are The Peacemakers - Resolving Your Conflict
TODAY	Happy Are The Harassed - Handling Your Persecution

- C. **TEXT:** Matthew 5:9 (Pew Bible Page 4/New Testament)

- The fake way to happiness is having the right **circumstances**.

It is based on “when and then thinking”.

- The real way to happiness is having the right **characteristics**.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”

John 13:17

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR PERSECUTION

I. HOW THIS BEATITUDE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS

- A. The situation is external versus internal.
It is totally outside of my control.
- B. This beatitude comes with a special promise/reward.

II. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSECUTION/HARASSMENT

- A. Persecuted to be pursued with intent of hurting.
- B. Revile to be insulted or mocked.
- C. Slanderous and false accusations.

Who were the biggest pursuers who mocked and delivered false accusations of our Savior?

Have you ever heard of the Greek word “diablos”?

The definition according to Strong’s is false accuser.

Warning: When we accuse others we are being most like the devil.

III. THE STATE OF PERSECUTION IN OUR WORLD

- A. It is widespread.
- B. It is ongoing.

My heroes - Of whom the world was not worthy.

Remember the persecuted.

“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.”
Hebrews 13:3

IV. THE RESPONSE OF THE BELIEVER TO PERSECUTION

- A. It is to be expected.

“18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”
John 15:18-19

- B. It isn’t fun/easy - It is called suffering.

“32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.”

Hebrews 10:32-33

- C. We are not alone.

“36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

Hebrews 11:36-40