

KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS IN AN UNRIGHTEOUS WORLD

Matthew 5:11-16 // February 26, 2023 PM

I. Kingdom righteousness infuriates the world (vv. 11-12).

II. Kingdom righteousness influences the world (vv. 13-16).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is persecution? Why does Jesus say His disciples are blessed in persecution (see vv. 10 & 12)?
2. Why does the world say and do mean things to Christians?
3. How can we rejoice and be glad when suffering for Christ? Is our joy rooting in the suffering itself or somewhere else?
4. How can the righteousness that negatively infuriates the world at the same time positively influence the world?
5. What images does Jesus use to speak of the way His followers influence the world?
6. How does persecution make disciples more salty and more bright? Do you remember the image of a ballerina dancing on a trash heap? What was that all about?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Is the smile of Christ in the gospel delivering me from the fear of the world's frowns?
2. Have I lost my saltiness through conformity to the world? Or have I lost my brightness through hiding from the world?
3. Why in both biblical history and church history are times of persecution always times of kingdom advance?