

“Blessed Are the Persecuted”

Matthew 5:10-12

3/15/2020

Our Lord wants us to know that the message of the Bible rubs people the wrong way. In Matthew 5:10-12 the Lord warns us that those who live out the 1st seven Beatitudes will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12

Verse 10

“For righteousness sake” – refers to being persecuted because of telling about Christ and because of the new lifestyle we live as believers.

Later Jesus will tell the disciples they will be persecuted because they are like Him – John 15:18-21.

Persecution can take a violent form:

Persecution can also take a non-violent form:

“The Kingdom of Heaven” – the blessings of the kingdom for the believer are:

- Present – Ephesians 1:3
- Future – Revelation 11:15

Jesus mentioned our experiencing the blessings of the kingdom in the present and the future in Mark 10:28-30

Verse 11

“Blessed” - repeated (compare v. 10) to emphasize the generous blessing given by God to those who are persecuted

Verse 12

“Reward is great in Heaven” – God promises that the suffering that will come from persecution will be totally offset by the enormity of our reward in Heaven.

“Prophets who were before you”

Jeremiah was continually mistreated

Isaiah was sawn in two

Ezekiel, Amos, Zechariah were stoned

Moses was reviled again and again – Exodus 5:11; 14:11; 16:2; 17:2, etc.

Samuel was rejected – 1 Samuel 8:5

Elijah was despised – 1 Kings 18:17, and persecuted – 1 Kings 19:2

Micaiah was hated – 2 Chronicles 18:17

Peter heard Jesus give the 8th Beatitude and later amplified what Jesus said in 1 Peter 3:13-17 and 4:12-16

Discussion Questions

The following questions are designed to be used by parents in discussing the sermon with their children, but can be used by anyone in discussing the sermon with others:

1. What stood out to you in this sermon?
2. What are some of the ways that the message of the Bible rubs people the wrong way?
3. In this passage what does Jesus warn will happen to those who live out the 1st seven Beatitudes?
4. What do we have to do to guarantee that we won't be persecuted?
5. Why should we "rejoice and be glad" when we are persecuted?
6. What is the positive outcome of our suffering and persecution that Peter encourages us with?
7. How should you be affected by this passage and apply this passage to your life this week?