

The Gospel of Matthew #33

Sermon on the Mount: How to Be Happy

#8: HAPPY ARE THE PERSECUTED

Matthew 5:10-12

I. Its connection to the rest of the beatitudes (v3-9)

Full circle: "theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" cf. v3

Again: these are 8 basic marks of a disciple of Jesus

II. What persecution looks like (v11-12)

A. Insults

B. Slander

So unfair: unable to defend yourself

C. Worse: see 10:21-23; 24:9

III. Reasons for persecution (v10-11)

A. _____ (v10)
i.e. doing what is right (cf. v6) without compromise

B. _____ (v11)
You remind them of Me and they hate Me (10:22; John 15:18)

IV. Why then are you happy and should rejoice?! (v10, 12)

A. You are in _____: v12
Cf. II Tim 3:10-12

B. It assures you of your _____ in _____: v10
As trouble proves the genuineness of love in a marriage, so does it
prove a heart that really loves Jesus
Cf. II Thess 1

C. Your _____ for such faithfulness will be beyond what you could _____! v12 (cf. 16:29)

So what

1. How do you suffer persecution?

Write down 3 times you have suffered any persecution—even a little bit—for doing right or for your love for Jesus?

1)

2)

3)

2. How do you find joy in that?

Review IV. above again. Real to you?

3. What does it mean if you simply can't relate to this?

2 possible responses:

a) I don't care. Disaster. Remember 3:10, 12

b) I feel ashamed. Jesus died for cowards like you and me.
Remember Peter.

Come to Jesus for forgiveness and follow Him, seeking His strength to stand against the current