

Blessed are the Persecuted

Matthew 5:10-12

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June 27, 2021

Introduction: Postures and practices that lead to purity of heart (Matthew 5:3-8)

Pure _____ --How to get it? Ezekiel 11:19-20;
John 3:3

--How to keep it? 2 Timothy 2:22
(Flee and pursue)

See God-- Psalm 23

Peacemaking is the _____ of having a pure heart.
Matthew 5:9

Peace-Maker: _____ compulsion to pursue
reconciliation

Reconciliation is a description of what it means to
_____ the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Sons of God--True for _____ genders

- Legal term in adoption and inheritance laws of first-century Rome
- "Like Father, Like Son"

_____ for rejoicing and blessing
1 Thess. 2:8, 19-20

_____ of sorrow and tears (Lk. 19:41-42)

How emotionally attached are you to the _____
and His Kingdom?

What _____ you great joy or great sorrow?

When you think about life, death and eternity, what
thoughts come to your mind?

When following the Lord becomes _____,
how do you respond?

"If you faint in the day of adversity,
your strength is small." Proverbs 24:10

Note: confusion of youth

It was clear that in the day of trouble....

Jesus gave some "hard sayings" in John 6:60.

Many turned away. John 6:66

Do you want to go away too? John 6:67

Simon Peter's response--John 6:68-69

Peacemaking can _____ to persecution.

Matthew 5:10-12

Persecution can _____ you into the valley.

Illustration: Elijah (1 Kings 18)

- Literal and figurative mountaintop
- Confronted Israel and the prophets of Baal
- Sought the Lord to end a 3½ year drought
- Outran Ahab's chariot from Carmel to Jezreel

1 Kings 19-- Ran for his life

- Afraid; asked to die (2 Corinthians 1:8-9)
- Slept, ate and drank
- Arose with renewed strength
- Went to meet with the Lord (19:8)
- Received supernatural nourishment

"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed
that it might not rain, and for 3½ years it did not rain..."
James 5:17

The Banner of the Cross

Chorus: Marching on, marching on!
For Christ count everthing but loss;
And to crown Him King, toil and sing
'Neath the banner of the cross!

1. There's a royal banner given for display
To the soldiers of the King. As an ensign fair
We lift it up today, while the ransomed ones we sing:
2. Though the foe may rage and gather as the flood,
Let the standard be displayed! And beneath its folds,
As soldiers of the Lord, for the truth be not dismayed!
3. Over land and sea, wherever man may dwell,
Make the glorious tidings known; of the crimson banner
Now the story tell, while the Lord shall claim His own!
4. When the glory dawns—'tis drawing very near;
It is hastening day by day—Then before our King
The foe shall disappear, and the cross the world shall sway!

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

1. May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling all I do and say.
2. May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph only thru His pow'r.
3. May the peace of God my Father rule my life in ev'rything,
That I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing—this is victory.
5. May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.
6. May His beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, seeing only Him.

What motivates you?

“Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven...”

“Your reward is great in Heaven...” Matt. 5:10-12

When you are persecuted for the sake of _____,
how will you respond?

Rejoice and say, “I am blessed”?

“If you are insulted for the name of Christ,
you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and
of God rests upon you...” 1 Peter 4:14-15

Note: Sometimes it is the result of our own sin and
foolishness.

Illustration: Peter and John's _____

- Acts 3: Doing good in the name of Jesus
- Acts 4: “Don't speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.” (4:18)
- Acts 5: Powerful people filled with jealousy
- Prison, miraculous release
- Speaking publicly against government orders
- Brought in for questioning

Note: the Gospel is very disruptive to the world system.

- Rejoiced that they were counted worthy (5:41)

If you _____ to “take the road less traveled,”

by following Jesus, how will you survive and thrive?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Revelation 12:7-12

“The Banner of the Cross”