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# “THE KINGDOM TO DIE FOR”

MATTHEW 5:10-12

SERIES: “TRUE SPIRITUALITY” (8)

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## Introduction

We come to the last of the beatitudes, in a sense the pinnacle of all that goes before it. It is generally agreed that verses 11 and 12 elaborate on verse 10, and is not another beatitude.

## Matthew 5:10-12

*“<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”*

## What happens to you when you are really a Kingdom person?

The Greek word for persecute is from the root word which means to “follow”, “pursue” or “chase”.

In this beatitude, Jesus is telling us we are blessed if people are so upset with our faith that they pursue us!

## Why is this verse important?

*It is a reminder that having the Kingdom of Heaven - the indwelling presence of the un-grieved Spirit - the anointing - is as good as it gets. There is no greater value or joy than having the Holy Spirit at home in you.*

We will never outgrow persecution.

# 1. The reality of persecution

Have you ever thought or wished that you will have so much of God on you that your enemies will look at you and say, “Wow, God is really with you.” “You are wonderful. How wrong I was about you.” -- It won't happen!!

Consider Jesus!

*“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”* – John 15:8

Opposition and persecution:

- A young man's encounter
- Jonathan Edwards

*“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*

-- 2 Timothy 3:12

- Polycarp (AD 150)
- The Apostle Paul – 2 Timothy 1:8  
*“Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me His prisoner. But join me in suffering for the Gospel.”*

**We should not be surprised if persecution comes, but rather surprised when it doesn't.**

**Beware of the Gospel of the “Good Life”**

*“We must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.”*

-- Acts 14:22

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
*“Suffering ... is the true badge of discipleship... ... Discipleship means allegiance to the suffering Christ, and it is therefore not at all surprising that Christians should be called upon to suffer. In fact it is a joy and a token of His grace.”*
- Charles Spurgeon

## 2. The reason for persecution

An important clarification:

V10: *“because of righteousness”*

*“Jesus did not say people are blessed because they are objectionable, or because they rave like wild eyed fanatics, or because they uphold some religious-political cause.”* -- Don Carson

V11: *“because of me”*

We are not talking about moralism, legalistic righteousness, or strict views about dress, diet, or the length of your hair.

There is a cost for faithfulness!

Abel, Moses, David, Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel, John the Baptist, Stephen, the Apostle Paul .... Jesus!

**By whom were the righteous persecuted?**

**Why do some of us not experience persecution?**

- ..... from the world
- Christians have become LIKE the .....

Ethics

*“My faith is private”*

## Some Conclusions (Martyn Lloyd Jones)

- **Our view about Jesus**

Is our view of Jesus applauded by the world?

*“If our understanding of Jesus is that he is here to make us feel good, become rich and famous, promote our career paths, and become the best sportsman in our school, we do not know Jesus.”*

- **This beatitude tests our idea of what is a Christian**

*“Woe to you, when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.”* -- Luke 6:26

A real Christian is not always spoken well of by all men.

- **New birth – being “born again” – is an absolute necessity before anyone can become a Christian.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

## 3. The reward for persecution

V10 – 12: Rejoice ... heaven ... reigning

The down payment – Ephesians 1:13-14 – the sealing of the Holy Spirit

Joseph Tson: “Father are you pleased with me?”

A final story: Dwight L Moody & Robert Inersoll