

“Beatitudes #6”

Matthew 5:10-12 - Beatitudes - (The Persecuted)

Review: Matthew 5:9 *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”*

Peacemakers: (Hebrew, Shalom: The desire for the total well-being of others and yourself)

Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV)

“Pursue peace with all people. And holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God...”

Romans 14:19... (“Let us *pursue* the things which make for *peace* and the things by which one may *edify* another.”)

James 3:18 (N KJV)... *“The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

Ephesians 4:2-3 (ESV)

“With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager (endeavoring) to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

- What is the result of a peacemaker... *“They shall be called the sons of God.”*
- What does it mean to be a son of God?

Romans 8:15-17 (NKJV)

“You did not receive the Spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out Abba Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

- Tonight... Matthew 5:10-12 (Text) Read

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake...”

- V11... “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you... **falsely for My sake.**”
- V12... “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, ***for great is your reward in heaven...***”

Persecution: Hostility and ill-treatment especially on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation or political beliefs.

Persistent annoyance or harassment... oppression

- No one likes suffering or persecution... ***Jesus said we are blessed when we endure it for His sake.***
- “We are ***hairs and joint hairs*** with Christ, if indeed we **suffer** with Him.” (Rom. 8: 17)

Philippians 3:7-10 (NKJV)

“What things were gain to me; these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and I count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him...not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith...”

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

(ESV) ***“That I... may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.”***

- What does this mean to you?
- I believe, the prosperity gospel has led many astray!

1 Peter 4:12-14 (NKJV)

“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing has happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ sufferings... v14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rest upon you...”

- Acts 9... story of Saul’s conversion, who’s name was changed to Paul.
- Acts 9:10-18 is the story of his baptism by Ananias...

Acts 9:15-16 *“the Lord said to him (Ananias) go for he (Saul) is a chosen vessel of mine to bear my name before the Gentiles, Kings, and the children of Israel. v16 For I will show him how many things he must **suffer** for My name’s sake.”*

- What is the opposite of Jesus’s pronounced blessings in the beatitudes?
- His woe’s...

Matthew 23:13 - 36