

- I. Blessed are those who are persecuted Matt 5:3-9
- A. Not all persecution brings blessing
I Pet 4:15-16;
Prov 27:14; Matt 27:32;
Judges 11:2-3;
II Kings 2:23; Isa 53:3;
John 9:30-34; I Cor 1:26
- B. Blessed persecution is for righteousness
I Pet 3:14a; 4:12-14;
Rom 3:10; John 3:19-20;
John 15:18-23;
II Tim 3:12; Acts 3:14-15;
Acts 4:2-3; 5:29-32
- II. Persecution for purity has its perks
- A. It proves our kingdom membership
Acts 5:40-42; II Tim 2:12
- B. It purifies us
I Pet 1:6-9; James 1:2-4;
Rom 5:3-5; Heb 5:8-9;
Heb 12:2-3,7, 11
- C. Jesus partners with us
Dan 3:16-25;
Acts 7:56; Matt 10:32
- D. Jesus pays us rewards
Heb 11:6;
Rev 22:12; II Cor 4:16-18
- III. . . We rejoice when we're persecuted for His sake; we don't do some other R's:
- A. We don't retaliate, repay, or seek revenge
I Pet 2:20-23
- B. We don't resent or reject
Eph 4:31-32
- C. We don't retreat, resign, or recede
II Cor 4:7-10, 16-18

Care Group Questions

“Why Are You Smiling?”

Text: Matt 5:10-12

Dave Bechtel

June 10, 2007

1. Pick a few of the beatitudes and put the character trait Jesus blesses in each one on a bell curve with what the world values on the same curve (hint: they are always on opposite ends). Can you place some other descriptive words that fit on the curves between the two extremes?
2. What kind of persecutions is Jesus not calling “blessed” in this beatitude? Can you give an example of someone who was or is being persecuted for something that is not included in this kind of persecution?
3. Why would Christ-followers be persecuted for being righteous? What is there about righteousness that the world hates?
4. Working backwards, show how this last beatitude naturally follows after the previous ones (what is there about peacemakers that the world hates and therefore persecutes, why would a pure in heart person be a peacemaker, etc.)
5. What are some of the perks of being persecuted for righteousness?
6. Why does the Scripture consider it a good thing to seek Christ’s rewards? What do we learn about them from these verses?
7. What can be some other responses we could have to persecution other than rejoicing (ones that aren’t approved)?
8. Agree/disagree: “If a person isn’t being persecuted, they must not be living the rest of the beatitudes.”
9. What is one “take away” for you personally from our study of the beatitudes?

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