

# The Beatitudes Message Series: "Persecuted"

Sunday, February 25, 2024 @ 10:30AM | Worship Center

**Matthew 5:10-12:** "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



**"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." – Jim Elliot, martyr**

## **Is Jesus' Teaching on Persecution Outdated?**

1. Jesus' teaching on persecution is relevant because the Global Perspective.
2. Jesus' teaching on persecution is relevant because it distinguishes between convictions about sinful nature and new creation.

"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." – 2 Timothy 3:12

## **Why the Persecutions Come?**

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake."

- **Righteousness in the Structure of the Beatitudes.**

verse 6: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."

verse 10: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake."

- **Righteousness and a Relationship with Jesus.**

"...without me you can do nothing," John 15:5

## **Why Is Righteousness Persecuted?**

"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." Luke 16:14-15

- **A Life Devoted to Righteousness Will Be Persecuted**

### **Why This Shocking Counsel from Jesus?**

He can say it because he knows beyond any shadow of a doubt that the reward of heaven will more than compensate for any suffering we must endure in the service of Christ.

"Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven."

Jesus wills for us to have our hearts primarily in heaven, our hopes primarily in heaven, our longings primarily in heaven, our joy primarily in heaven.

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