



“Blessed are the Persecuted”

Matthew 5:10-12

01-15-2012

→ Warm up...

1. Have you ever been insulted, falsely accused, or had evil spoken about you because you were a Christian? How did it feel at the time? How did you react?
2. The sign at the top of Jesus’ cross was written in what three languages?

→Introduction... “Over the last 15 years I have had the honor to meet with believers, brothers and sisters, in countries where the gospel is restricted, where believers are persecuted, harassed, tortured or killed just because they are a follower of Jesus . How faithful these believers are, as they reach and teach others in their communities! It inspires me, convicts me, and blesses me!” Pastor Larry.

→ Explore it... Read Matt 5:1-12

1. According to Matt 5:1-12 and 2 Tim 3:10-13:
 - a. Who will be persecuted?
 - b. What should we do when persecuted?
 - c. How will we be persecuted?
2. Read Luke 21:12-19. Discuss which aspects of persecution are the most surprising to you.
3. When has or when will persecution take place?
 - a. Gen 37:18, Jer 18:19-20
 - b. 2 Cor 4:8
 - c. Rev 6:9-11
4. What did Jesus tell us to help us when we are persecuted? See John 15:18-16:5.
5. What should our attitude be toward those who persecute us? See Ps 73:16-19 and Acts 26:29.
6. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5 and the beatitudes. What is our reward for enduring persecution?
7. Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. What are the goals of suffering and persecution?
8. You have probably heard people say that we can’t know how we will react to persecution until it happens. What verses do you know to either prove or disprove this statement?

9. How can we prepare for persecution?

- a. 2 Thess 1:11-12
- b. Ezek 36:27
- c. Ps 37:31
- d. Acts 16:22-25
- e. 1 Thess 5:18
- f. 2 Cor 4:16-18
- g. Heb 12:1
- h. Acts 1:8
- i. 1 Peter 3:13-17
- j. Matt 5:44-45
- k. Heb 13:3
- l. Rom 15:5-7

➔ **Apply it...** As you think back on this lesson – answer these questions personally with I, me, and my ...

1. The warm up question asked about any troubles you may have faced because you are a Christian. After today's study, do you believe you would react the same way in the future? What would you do differently?
2. If you have not faced any troubles because of being a Christian, do you think you will be able to face them without denying Christ? Why or why not?
3. Not all troubles come because we are Christians. How has this study helped you prepare for them?

➔ **Pray it...** Dear Lord, I want to thank you for saving me and calling me into your kingdom. Help me to glorify you in everything I say and do. When troubles come, especially if they come because I'm called by your name, help me to face them and be a good witness to others. Because of your many promises and your power working in me, I know I will be able to persevere. Help me to be prepared and joyfully live through them.