

# LAWS FOR LIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5 Part 8 Preparing for Persecution

## 9 Beautiful Attitudes! Attitudes We Need to Have! Blessed = Contentment

*And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. <sup>3</sup>Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

*<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*

*<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*

**<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Matthew 5:2-12

The Beatitudes are not what we have or do but what we **ARE**—Character traits.

<sup>12</sup> Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

## REASON FOR PERSECUTION

### 1. We Will Be Persecuted for How We **LIVE!** *for righteousness sake*

**Righteous carries the meaning to divide or separate from, distinguished as different.**

*<sup>2</sup>You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. <sup>3</sup>You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.*

*<sup>4</sup>Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. I Peter 4:2-4*

**PUNISHMENT** is **not** Persecution! Punishment is by good people to us for doing evil  
Persecution by evil people when we are doing good

*<sup>14</sup>If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup>If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. I Peter 4:14-15*

### 2. We Will Be Persecuted for the LORD We **LOVE!** *for My sake*

**Did You Know the World Hates Jesus Christ?!**

*<sup>18</sup>"If the world hates you, remember that it hated Me first. <sup>19</sup>The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. <sup>20</sup>Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted Me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to Me, they would listen to you. <sup>21</sup>They will do all this to you because of Me, for they have rejected the one who sent Me.*

John 15:18-21

<sup>12</sup> Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:12

## METHODS OF PERSECUTION

...when they [1] **revile** and [2] **persecute** you...[3]**say all kinds of evil** against you falsely for My sake.

1. **Personal Insult** revile, laugh mock
2. **Physical abuse** persecute “do physical harm”
3. **Social stigma** **say all kinds of evil** against you falsely

## OUR REACTION TO PERSECUTION

- **Reign Like a KING!** *For theirs [ours] is the kingdom of heaven.* Matthew 5:3  
*If we endure hardship, we will reign with Him.* 2 Timothy 2:12

Stay up on the Heavenly Level!

<b>Hellish level</b>	evil for good
<b>Human level</b>	good for good evil for evil
<b>Heavenly level</b>	good for evil

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.  
Matthew 5:43-45

<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.....<sup>20</sup> In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.  
Romans 12:17-18, 20

- **Rejoice in the LORD!** **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad**  
<sup>41</sup> The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus  
Acts 5:41

- **Respond in LOVE!** <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!  
Matthew 5:44

Love is not giving people what they deserve but what they **NEED!**

**Let God deal with them---**Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord.  
Romans 5:12

It does not matter if you please the whole world if you don't please Jesus!  
If you please Jesus it really doesn't matter who you don't please!