

#BLESSED series
Week 8 outline
11.28.21
Matthew 5:10-12

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED
"BECAUSE OF ME"

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

I. What Persecution Is [Because of Jesus]

- A. What Persecution is not...
 - 1. When people oppose us because we're lazy or untrustworthy
 - 2. When people reject us because we're hard to get along with or lack fruit of the Spirit
- B. What Persecution is...
 - 1. When people insult us (things said to you) "because of me"
 - 2. When people persecute us (things directed at you) "because of me"
 - 3. When people falsely say all kinds of evil against us (things said about you) "because of me"

PERSECUTION ISN'T ABOUT YOU...
IT'S ABOUT JESUS

II. How We Respond [Because of Jesus]

- A. Because of Jesus... We Rejoice
 - We practice rejoicing regardless of insults
 - Joy is the response to Grace that puts faith into action
 - xaírō* – to delight in God's grace ("rejoice") – literally, to experience God's grace (favor), be conscious (glad) for His grace
- B. Because of Jesus.... We Exult
 - We practice gladness despite in the presence of evil
 - The Fullness of joy moves us to celebration
 - agalliáo* – getting so glad one jumps in celebration; to exult (boast) because one is so experientially joyful

JESUS DECLARES: "BECAUSE OF ME"
...AND THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

III. Where Blessing is Discovered [*Because of Jesus*]

A. Because of Jesus

...We stand in the present with the promise of an eternal perspective

"because great is your reward in heaven"

B. Because of Jesus

...We stand in the present with retrospection of God's faithfulness in the past

"for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you"

JESUS REMINDS US OF HIS FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST,
ASSURES US WITH HIS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE,
AND IS WITH US IN HIS PROMISE FOR THE PRESENT.

IV. It's "*Because of Me*" Jesus Says that We are Blessed

A. We sometimes treat God's blessing like it's a measuring stick in our life

in pursuit of The Comfortable Life

-all about obtaining: a stress free, strife free, and pain free life?

GOD'S BLESSING IS BIGGER THAN COMFORTABLE
HIS BLESSING LOOKS MORE LIKE A RIVER THAN A MEASURING STICK

B. The Blessed Life "According to Jesus" [*Because of Me*] (Mt 5:1-12)

Blessed in our poorness of spirit, we acknowledge our need for our Savior, Jesus

Blessed when our hearts allow for mourning, we surrender ourselves to mourn our sin in
repentance to Jesus

Blessed when we live our lives in humility, we walk in the strong meekness of Jesus

Blessed in our desire for righteousness, we receive the full satisfaction by faith in the
righteousness of Jesus

In His righteousness we are blessed to give mercy;

in His mercy we are blessed to live pure in heart;

in His pureness we are blessed as peacemakers in this world;

and in His peace we are blessed to endure through all persecution.

...AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF JESUS

GOD'S BLESSING MAKES US FULLY SATISFIED IN HIM, DRAWS US CLOSER TO JESUS, AND
HELPS US RELINQUISH THE TEMPORARY AND CLING TO THE ETERNAL -J. Stott