

Mt. 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs **is** the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you labely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

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#### Review

Several weeks ago, we began the exegesis of this great sermon preached by the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16
  - A. The Setting, 5:1-2
  - B. The Sayings, 5:3-12
    - 1. What We Are, 5:3-5
      - a.Poor in Spirit, 5:3
      - b.Pressed in Soul, 5:4
      - c.Patient in Strife, 5:5

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2.Where We Aim, 5:6
3.Ways We Act, 5:7-9
a.When Facing Cruelty, 5:7
b.When Facing Corruption, 5:8
c.When Facing Conflict, 5:9

### Introduction

Tonight, we continue studying this great sermon, "The Sermon on the Mount," focusing upon verses 10-12. We observe the consequences for the "peacemaker."

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### 4.What We Accept, 5:10-12

a.The Question of Overwhelming Persecution, 5:10-11

Mt. 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

- The eighth beatitude represents the treatment a believer can expect from the world.
- Persecution is as much a mark of discipleship as peacemaking.
- The world does not give up its hates and selfcentered living easily.
- This brings opposition on disciples of Christ.

Rescharge

### 1 Jn. 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

- Righteous people, those whose conduct is right in God's eyes, those who are Christ-like, become targets of the unrighteous.
- Jesus, the perfectly righteous One, suffered more than any other righteous person has suffered.
- The Old Testament prophets foretold this, calling Him the Suffering Servant of the Lord (cf. Isa. 52:13—53:12).

• The "righteousness" in the phrase "...for righteousness' sake..." was revealed in <u>Deut. 30</u>, and repeated in <u>Rom. 10</u>:

Deut. 30:11 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.

- 12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?
- 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?
- 14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Rom. 10:5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

<u>6</u> But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*:)

- 7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)
- 8 But what saith it? The word is night thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
- 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- When a believer is connected to the righteousness of Christ, not only identifying WITH Christ, but also reproving the world of its sin and alienation from God.

Jn. 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

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The first Beatitude begins with "...the kingdom of heaven." And the last Beatitude closes with "...the kingdom of heaven."

Mt. 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Even though Jesus' disciples suffer as they anticipate the kingdom, they can find joy in knowing that the kingdom will eventually be their possession.
- The present tense verb, is, indicates the promise is a present possession as well as a future promise.
- Such a promise will provide release from the persecution of God-haters when the "Man of Sorrows" reigns.

- Martyn Lloyd Jones suggested four general lessons that the Beatitudes teach:
- 1. All Christians are to be like this, not just some.
- 2. All Christians are meant to manifest all of these characteristics, not just some.
- 3. None of these characteristics refers to one's natural tendencies; they are all produced by the Holy Spirit in the Christian.
- 4. These characteristics indicate clearly the essential difference between the Christian and the non-Christian [better: the disciple and the non-disciple].

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Studies in the Sermon on the Mount. N.c.: Inter-Varsity Fellowship, 1959 & 1960. Reprint ed. 2 vols.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1967, 1971, 1976, Reprinted March 1989. 1:33-38

Mt. 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

### REVILE,

To reproach; to treat with opprobrious and contemptuous language.

http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/revile

- Verse 11 broadens the persecution to include insult and slander.
- The key word is "falsely." A believer should have a testimony that is true to Christ.

- The key phrase in verse 11 also identifies connection with Jesus and righteousness = "...for my sake."
- 2 Tim. 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- 1 Pet. 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;
- 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

b. The Question of Overcoming Persecution, 5:12

Mt. 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

## (1)Rejoicing Through It, 5:12a "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad..."

Persecution, for righteousness' sake, should cause the disciples to "rejoice" rather than despair.

(2) Rewarded For It, 5:12b "...for great is your reward in heaven..."

Their "reward" for faithfully enduring would be great "...in heaven..." = eternity.

- This promise should be an incentive for Christ's disciples to view their opposition by the ungodly as temporary and to realize that their reward for persevering faithfully will be eternal.
- Jesus' words about eternal rewards open and close the New Testament (cf. Rev. 22:12).
  - (3)Relationship with Prophets "...for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."
- Believers identify with the saints throughout the ages and are in "good company."

- A believer who suffers persecution "for righteousness' sake" should consider three things:
- 1. Get the proper perspective "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad..."
- 2. "Great" is the ultimate promise in the future "...great is your reward in heaven..."
- 3. Good company with the "persecuted prophets" "...for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

### **Summary**

 Jesus taught that our outlook on everything that happens to us should be determined by three things: grasping the reality of...

1. who I am;

2. where I am going;

3. what awaits me when I get there.

#### Conclusion

Jn. 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

- 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

  20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying,
- 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.
  22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

they will keep yours also.

### 23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

- 24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: **but now** have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.
- 25 But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.
- 26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
- 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

# 1 Pet. 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

- 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.
- 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.
- 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.
- 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.