

MATTHEW 5:10-12 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED - ([SERMON MP3](#))

(Matthew 5:10) says “Blessed are the persecuted,” but are there really persecuted Christians today? Take some time to Google “Christian persecution” and see how this theme has relevance today. Perhaps jot down some of the areas of worst affliction. Maybe read a modern Christian martyr’s story and be prepared to share it with the group.

- According to (Hebrews 13:3) what should we be doing for the persecuted church?
- Read (Hebrews 11:36-38) and reflect on your heritage of faith and what it cost those who decided to live righteously for Christ.

There are many Christians who say, “I have been persecuted for my faith” without really understanding what it means to be persecuted for Christ.

- Have you ever known an arrogant, obnoxious, rude, cross-grained Christian who labels his poor treatment from the world as “persecution.” What are your thoughts on that?
- For what reason should a believer be persecuted, according to (Matthew 5:10)?
- In (1Peter 4:14), what does Peter say is a legitimate reason for being persecuted? What does verse 15 say we are not to be persecuted for?

“It’s difficult to be indifferent to a wide-awake Christian. You can hate them or love them, but you can’t ignore them. They confront others with the reality of God and you can’t be neutral in such cases. These people must be crowned or crucified.” – Clarence Jordan

- True believers (wide-awake Christians) have never been popular with the people of the world. Our righteousness intimidates them, our boldness annoys them, our refusal to participate in their sin infuriates them, and our love for God mystifies them. What have you done in the last month that has caused anyone to challenge your faith?
- When have you risked speaking out in favor of righteousness? How have you defended the cause of Christ and the purity of the gospel?
- What do you do when topics like evolution, abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, materialism, drunkenness, the divinity of Jesus, humanism, and spirituality come to the surface? Do you speak up and speak out for truth and righteousness?

