

The Gospel of Matthew

The reason for persecution

Persecution comes to every believer

- Acts 14:21-22
- 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4
- 1 Peter 4:12-16

The Gospel of Matthew

The reason for persecution

Persecution comes for one reason

- It's not self-inflicted
- It's not zealotry
- It's not for a good cause
- It's not for being a good person
- It's only for living righteously (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

Live the other 7 beatitudes

Live like Jesus

- Live like Jesus, be hated like Jesus (John 15:18-23)

The Gospel of Matthew

The reason for persecution

Persecution comes from two sources

- The world
- Your own family
 - Biological family
 - “spiritual” family

The Gospel of Matthew

The reality of persecution

Three types of persecution

- Physical – “persecuted”
- Verbal – “Cast insults”
- Maliciousness – “Say all kinds of evil about you falsely”

The Gospel of Matthew

The response to persecution (v. 12)

Don't retreat (Matthew 10:24-33)

Don't retaliate (1 Peter 3:21-24)

Don't resent (Luke 23:34, Acts 7:60)

Do rejoice (Matthew 5:12)

- There is a future reward
- There is a present reward

