

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, February 21, 2021**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 25. Reviled for My Sake – Matthew 5:11-12**

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**Intro:** In the final be-attitude we learned what the world's reaction will be to us if we are a Christian, as exemplified by these be-attitudes. These be-attitudes present a composite picture of the Christian and his character. If we look like this, the kind of believer described and empowered by grace, blessed, then we will look like Jesus. And the hard truth found in Matthew 5:10 is this: If you are a believer, a follower of Jesus Christ, one who looks like Him, then you will be persecuted. There is no way around it. How then should we respond to and think about suffering for righteousness' sake?

- I. Defining Terms – vs. 11-12
  - A. Blessed – a recipient of divine favor, grace - desire and ability to please God
  - B. Revile and Persecute
    1. Revile: To demean, heap insults upon, an unjustifiable reproach – Luke 6:22; Rom. 15:3; 1 Tim. 4:10; 1 Peter 4:14
    2. Persecute: To be pursued, chased out, put to flight - Acts 22:4; 24:25; Gal. 1:23
  - C. Say All Kinds of Evil Falsely – “thrown plenty of mud and some of it will stick” – CHS
    1. Speak, say, write against, or down to
    2. All sorts of evil, harmful, painful, bad things
    3. A lie, to deceive, to create a false impression - Acts 5:3
  - D. For My Sake
    1. On account of, because of Me
    2. Who is being persecuted and chased out? Jesus! – Acts 9:5; 26:14; Matt. 25:40, 45
  - E. Rejoice and be Exceedingly Glad
    1. Rejoice – be glad, be delighted, full of joy, welcome it
    2. Exceedingly glad – exuberant joy – 1 Peter 1:8; Luke 10:21; Luke 1:47; Rev. 19:7
    3. Great is your reward – payment, wages, reward for obedience – John 4:36; 1 Cor. 3:8; 9:17
    4. In heaven – Matt. 6:19-21
    5. So they persecuted the prophets who were before you – CHS Quote #1
  - F. The Christian is Essentially Different
    1. The result of Christ's ministry is that we are different, and hence divided – Matt. 10:34
    2. Look at how Christ suffered – is the servant greater than his master? – John 15:20
    3. We live for Christ's sake, not our own – MLJ Quote #2
- II. When Persecuted, Don't...
  - A. Trust Your Feelings
  - B. Trust Your Ability to Reason – 2 Cor. 4:8-9
  - C. Retaliate or Feel Resentment – 1 Peter 2:21-25
  - D. Rejoice for the Mere Fact of Suffering (as if it were because we are better)
- III. When Persecuted, Do...
  - A. Trust God's Word and the Knowledge Revealed in It – Luke 12:11-12
  - B. Rejoice in that You are Identified with Christ – 1 Peter 4:12-13
  - C. Rejoice in God's Work to Purify You – 1 Peter 1:6-8; 5:10-11
  - D. Let Your Light Shine – Matt. 5:16
  - E. Rejoice for the Proof of Victory and Where You Are Going – 1 Cor. 9:24-26; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; Rev. 4:4, 9-11
- IV. What is Your Reward?
  - A. Thoughts of Heaven and the World to Come – Heb. 11:9-10, 13-16, 39-40; Col. 3:1-4; 2 Peter 3:10-14

1. Unmixed joy, glory, holiness, communion, and the wonder of everlasting life – Rom. 6:23
  2. Christ, and all that is His – 2 Cor. 4:14-18; 5:10-11
- B. Why Do We Cling to this Unhappy, Wretched World?

## Quotes

CHS #1 – The heritage and honor of suffering with the prophets – it happened, it is happening, it will happen – and “it is our high privilege to belong to this succession of savage slander.”

MLJ #2 – “The Christian, being a new man, having received new life from Christ, realizing that he owes everything to Christ and His perfect work, and particularly to His death upon the cross, says to himself, ‘I am not my own; I have been bought with a price.’ He therefore wants to live his whole life to the glory of Him who has thus died for him, and bought him, and risen again. So he desires to present himself, body, soul, and spirit, everything to Christ. This you will agree is something that was not only taught by our Lord; it is emphasized everywhere in all of the New Testament Epistles. If we are truly Christian, our desire must be, however much we fail in practice, to live for Christ, to glory in His name and to live to glorify Him.”

## Cross References

### Luke 6:22

22 Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man’s sake.

### Romans 15:3

3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”

### 1 Timothy 4:10

10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

### 1 Peter 4:14

14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

### Acts 22:4

4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,

### Acts 24:25

25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”

**Galatians 1:23**

23 But they were hearing only, “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.”

**Acts 5:3**

3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?”

**Acts 9:5**

5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

**Acts 26:14**

14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

**Matthew 25:40**

40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

**Matthew 25:45**

45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

**1 Peter 1:8**

8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

**Luke 10:21**

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

**Luke 1:47**

47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

**Revelation 19:7**

7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

### **John 4:36**

36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

### **1 Corinthians 3:8**

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

### **1 Corinthians 9:17**

17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

### **Matthew 6:19-21**

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **Matthew 10:34**

34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

### **John 15:20**

20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

### **2 Corinthians 4:8-9**

8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

### **1 Peter 2:21-25**

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### **Luke 12:11-12**

11 “Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. 12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

### **1 Peter 4:12-13**

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

### **1 Peter 1:6-8**

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

### **1 Peter 5:10-11**

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### **Matthew 5:16**

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **1 Corinthians 9:24-26**

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

### **2 Timothy 4:8**

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

### **James 1:12**

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

### **1 Peter 5:4**

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

### **Revelation 4:4**

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

## **Revelation 4:9-11**

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

## **Hebrews 11:9-10**

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

## **Hebrews 11:13-16**

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

## **Hebrews 11:39-40**

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

## **Colossians 3:1-4**

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

## **2 Peter 3:10-14**

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

## **Romans 6:23**

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **2 Corinthians 4:14-18**

14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

## **2 Corinthians 5:10-11**

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.