

Persecuted Peacemakers

Matthew 5:9 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. 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. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in heaven**: for so **persecuted** they the prophets which were before you.

1. We begin sharing this great work that God has done in us with others 9 Blessed *are* the **peacemakers**: for they shall be called the **children of God**.
 - a. We have peace and know how we got it
 - b. We are to share the peace and bring reconciliation to others II Corinthians 5:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath **reconciled us to himself** by Jesus Christ, and hath **given to us the ministry of reconciliation**; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ,

reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. **20** Now then **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God.** **21** For he hath made him *to be sin for us*, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- c. Calling us peacemakers was showing our Father's character in us **9 Blessed are the peacemakers:** for they shall be called the **children of God.**
- d. Earlier He called them to be fishers of men. Here is another analogy, peacemakers
- e. The only true peace that exists is based on a right relationship with God. **Peace Child!**
- f. If you have peace with God you can enjoy the peace of God. If you have peace you can live peacefully
- g. Have you become a peacemaker. Do you share the news of peace with others

2. As we live for Jesus, share His holiness, His message there will be persecution **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. **12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**
- a. We have seen beatitudes that speak of **who we are** and then **what that makes us do**. Now we are in a beatitude about **what they do to us**
 - b. Persecution means that they are pursuing, chasing away in an aggressive manner. It involves cruelty, injury.
 - c. Those that were living out the principles of the beatitudes could **expect** to be hated, accused, talked about by those that do not agree with what the God of heaven says
 - d. All that live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution
II Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

- i. Light is not welcome in darkness
 - ii. Salt burns in the open wounds of sin
- e. Have you stood up to persecution to bring honor and glory to Jesus **John Dale in Lord's of the**

earth

- f. Does the fear of what people may say about you cause you to not speak of Jesus
- g. Does it cause you not to live out your faith in holiness

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

- a. What is persecution?
 - i. The idea behind persecution is to be pursued, chased, harassed, drive or chase away--persecution is aggressive

- ii. The word persecution also includes pain, injury, being treated evilly
- iii. Persecution includes persistency, unrelenting.
- iv. It is not only physical opposition or torture but includes insults **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.**
- v. Persecution is because of holy living, purity **10 Blessed are they which are **persecuted for righteousness' sake:** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- vi. Persecution is because of our stand with and for Jesus and His teachings **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.****
- vii. Doing right makes the wicked angry **Proverbs 29:27 An unjust man *is* an abomination to the just: And *he that is upright in the way is abomination to***

the wicked. Those who reject God hate those that walk right, like God teaches

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

i. You know what happens with Jesus and so you shouldn't expect anything better **John 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, they will keep yours also.

- ii. We are going to have tribulation in this world according to Jesus [John 16:33](#) These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
- iii. Paul warned that the believers that they would face tribulation [Acts 14:22](#) Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
- iv. They were not to be surprised [I Thessalonians 3:3](#) That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that **we are appointed thereunto.** [4](#) For verily, when we were with you, **we told you before that we should suffer tribulation;** even as it came to pass, and ye know.

c. It is a privilege [Philippians 1:29](#) For unto you it is **given** in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

i. We are to rejoice [12](#) **Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:** for **great is your reward in heaven:** for so **persecuted** they the prophets which were before you.

1. They rejoiced [Acts 5:41](#) And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing** that they were **counted worthy** to suffer shame for his name.

2. God is working in my life so that I will bring Him praise, honor, and glory [I Peter 1:6](#) Wherein ye **greatly rejoice,** though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: [7](#) That the **trial of your faith,** being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

d. How to be really excited about being persecuted 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. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in heaven**: for so **persecuted** they the prophets which were before you.

- i. It is a sign that I am on my way to Heaven, that my faith has so affected my life that it has changed me. I don't walk like the world 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are **persecuted for righteousness' sake**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ii. I have God's blessing and happiness if I suffer correctly 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.
- iii. I am promised a great eternal reward 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in**

heaven: for so **persecuted** they the prophets which were before you.

- iv. I am lining up with great men of God that have gone on before me **12** Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in heaven:** for so **persecuted** they the prophets which were before you.
- v. I can suffer with a good conscience **I Peter 3:13** And who *is* he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? **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.

vi. God's Holy Spirit is working in my life I Peter 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.

vii. We are to glorify God that He allows us to suffer

I Peter 4:16 Yet if *any man* suffer as a Christian, **let**

him not be ashamed; but let him

glorify God on this behalf.

e. Truths to remember in the time of persecution and testing

- i. When I am weak He is strong [II Corinthians 12:9](#) And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for **my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10](#) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**
- ii. The tribulations bring me into a deeper, closer, more intimate relationship with Christ [Philippians 3:10](#) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
- f. Are you standing for Christ and living out your faith in your family, your neighborhood, and at work?
- g. Do you humbly take their abuse knowing that God is going to take care of you and work in their lives?