

Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted Pt.1

October 9, 2014

Matthew 5:3-12

- 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.
- 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**.

- **persecuted** (*dioko*) to put to flight, to pursue, aggressively chase like a hunter

1. EXPECT PERSECUTION FROM BOTH THE RELIGIOUS AND THE SECULAR.

Matthew 10:16-18

16 Behold, I send you forth as **sheep in the midst of wolves**: be ye therefore **WISE AS SERPENTS** [understanding human nature], and **HARMLESS AS DOVES** [never say or do anything maliciously].

17 But **beware of men**: for they will deliver you up to the councils (*sunedrion - Sanhedrin, council of Jewish elders or leaders*), and they will scourge you in their synagogues; [RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION]

18 And ye shall be brought before **governors** and **kings** for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. [SECULAR PERSECUTION]

2. FEAR GOD, NOT THE PERSECUTION. BE FEARLESS BEFORE PERSECUTION.

Matthew 10:26-31

26 **Fear them not** therefore: for there is nothing covered, **that shall not be revealed**; and hid, **that shall not be known**.

27 What I tell you in darkness, **THAT SPEAK YE IN LIGHT**: and what ye hear in the ear, **THAT PREACH YE UPON THE ROOFTOPS**.

28 And **FEAR NOT THEM** which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but **RATHER FEAR HIM which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**.

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
31 **FEAR YE NOT THEREFORE**, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

3. **FLEE RATHER THAN STAY AND FIGHT.**

Matthew 10:23

"But when they persecute you in this city, **FLEE YE INTO ANOTHER**: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come."

Matthew 5:25-26

25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; **lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the JUDGE, and the judge deliver thee to the OFFICER, and thou be CAST INTO PRISON.**

26 Verily I say unto thee, **THOU SHALT BY NO MEANS COME OUT THENCE**, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

4. **GOD WILL ALWAYS SUPPLY MORE THAN ENOUGH GRACE TO ENDURE PERSECUTION.**

Matthew 10:19-20

19 But when they deliver you up, **TAKE NO THOUGHT HOW** or **WHAT YE SHALL SPEAK**: for **IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU** in that same hour what ye shall speak.

20 For it is not ye that speak, but **the Spirit of your Father WHICH SPEAKETH IN YOU**.

Acts 7:54-60

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, **BEING FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST**, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and **saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God**,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And **they stoned Stephen, calling upon God**, and saying, Lord Jesus, **receive my spirit**.

60 And he **kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, LAY NOT THIS SIN TO THEIR CHARGE**. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

5. **PERSECUTION MAY COME FROM THOSE CLOSEST TO US.**

Matthew 10:21

"And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death."

Matthew 10:34-37

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36 **And a man's foes SHALL BE THEY OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD.**

37 **He that loveth father or mother more than me IS NOT WORTHY OF ME: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me IS NOT WORTHY OF ME.**

6. WE SHOULD REJOICE WHEN PERSECUTED BECAUSE IT MEANS WE ARE LIKE OUR MASTER, JESUS.

Matthew 10:22-25

22 **And ye shall be HATED OF ALL MEN for my name's sake:** but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

25 **IT IS ENOUGH for the disciple that HE BE AS HIS MASTER, and THE SERVANT AS HIS LORD.** If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Acts 5:40-42

40 ...when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

41 And they departed from the presence of the council, **REJOICING THAT THEY WERE COUNTED WORTHY TO SUFFER SHAME FOR HIS NAME.**

42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, **THEY CEASED NOT TO TEACH AND PREACH JESUS CHRIST.**

7. GOD'S PROMISES TO THE PERSECUTED.

Matthew 10:22

“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but **HE THAT ENDURETH TO THE END SHALL BE SAVED.**”

Matthew 10:32-33

32 **Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, HIM WILL I CONFESS ALSO BEFORE MY FATHER which is in heaven.**

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

8. WE MUST NEVER RETALIATE WHEN PERSECUTED; BUT ACCEPT CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS PEACEABLY AND PATIENTLY, WITH FORGIVENESS FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE US.

Matthew 5:43-48

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM** that curse you, **DO GOOD TO THEM** that hate you, and **PRAY FOR THEM** which despitefully use you, and persecute you;
45 **THAT YE MAY BE THE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER** which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.
46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?
47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?
48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Romans 12:18-21

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
19 Dearly beloved, **AVENGE NOT YOURSELVES**, but rather **GIVE PLACE UNTO WRATH**: for it is written, **VENGEANCE IS MINE; I WILL REPAY**, saith the Lord.
20 **Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.**
21 **BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD.**

9. NEVER INSTIGATE PERSECUTION

Matthew 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.**”

1 Peter 2:12–15

12 **Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.**
13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;
14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.
15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may **put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:**