

Persecution and the Blessed

Matthew 5:10-16

Key Word: "When"

Introduction

Matt 10:32-33 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

John 3:19-20 ... the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Matthew 5:10-16

[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. [13] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

Matthew 5:10-16

[14] “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Road Map

- 1) **The Blessed Life**
- 2) **Life as Salt and Light**
- 3) **Preparing for persecution**

1) The Blessed Life

- Verse 9 – Peacemakers are blessed of God.
 - Jesus is the “Prince of Peace.”
- Jesus changes from the 3rd person (Blessed is the one who is...) to the 2nd person “Blessed are you”
- Jesus was both peacemaker and persecuted
 - John 18:10
 - John 19:26

1) The Blessed Life

John 15:20 “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.”

It is more often the things we will not do or participate in that those in darkness find most abhorrent.

2) Life as Salt and Light

Matt 10:34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

John 15:18-19 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

Jesus said “you are”

2) Life as Salt and Light

John 8:12 "I am the Light of the World"

- Persecution is an attempt to extinguish the light, to render our societal preservative powerless.
- Persecution is not an attack on us as much as an attack against Jesus Christ and his Holiness.
- We are the instruments that Christ uses, so we are the target of the attacks

3) Preparing for Persecution

A different perspective:

Heb 12:10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

Heb 12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

3) Preparing for Persecution

Acts 5:40-41 when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Heb 12:1-2 let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Wrapping it up

We will never be alone, never be abandoned, never be outside of the hand of God.

Heb13:5-6 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

