

Teaching Series: Happy Time: 5.15.16

Title: Blessed are Those Who Are Persecuted Teacher: Michael Sorcinelli

Matthew 5:10-12, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

I. What does it mean to be _____?

Persecution is when someone _____ because of your faith (Acts 9:1-4).

II. Is _____ who is persecuted blessed?

Matthew 5:10, "Blessed are those who are persecuted *because of righteousness...*"

III. What does persecution _____?

Matthew 5:11, "Blessed are you when people *insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil* against you because of me."

1. People will _____ you (Matthew 27:39-44).
2. People will try to _____ you (Acts 5:17-41)
3. People will say things about you that _____ (Matthew 11:19).

IV. How is it that the appropriate response to persecution is to

_____ and _____?

1. Persecution confirms my _____ in God's kingdom.

Matthew 5:10, "Blessed [happy] are those who are persecuted...for [or *because*] theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

2. Persecution results in _____.

Matthew 5:12, "Rejoice and be glad [when you're persecuted] because great is your reward in heaven..."

3. Persecution helps _____ the gospel.

Matthew 5:12, "Rejoice and be glad...for [because] in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Acts 5:41, "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, *rejoicing* because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name."

Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."