

The Beatitudes
"Persecuted for Righteousness"
Matthew 5:10-12
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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

Christians will encounter opposition and persecution.

Matthew 5:10-12 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

- Followers of Christ have been called to live righteous lives.
- Followers are guaranteed at some point to experience persecution and reviling.

The word "persecuted" (dioko) means to harass or to treat in an evil way.

The word "revile" (oneidizo) means to abuse with vile, vicious, mocking words. (Also used in Matthew 27:44).

Opposition and Persecution

Luke 14:27-28 "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it."

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. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."

2 Timothy 3:12 "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

Philippians 1:29 "For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."

"When a man encounters Jesus, he will do one of two things. Either he must die, or he must put Christ to death." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

How to respond to persecution?

Recognize the source.

Ephesians 6:12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, **against the rulers of the darkness of this age**, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Emphasis added)

Refuse to retaliate.

Romans 12:17-19 “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, **‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.**”

Respond positively.

Romans 12:21 “Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.**”

Reflect on God’s will.

Psalms 37:7-9 **“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;** Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. **Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth.”** (Emphasis added)

Jesus’ final promise in the beatitudes was a promise of persecution. Blessed are the persecuted.

TOGETHER WE IMPACT OUR WORLD!

We are partnering with Voice of the Martyrs Action Pack Ministry. Our church is committing to fill 50 Action Packs.

We are “overcoming evil with good” by filling Action Packs for persecuted Christians.

1. Sign out an Action Pack or two or three.
2. Follow the instructions in the Action Pack. There is a list provided for you of items to purchase.
3. Check the Action Pack back into the church when it is filled.
4. Please complete filling the pack and return by August 6th.
5. If for any reason you cannot fill the pack you checked out please return to the church. They cost \$7.00 each.
6. Sunday, August 13, we will pray over our packets and prepare them for shipping.

Be a part of filling Action Packs from Voice of the Martyrs for persecuted Christians.

At our church, we pray, worship, grow, serve, reach - together we impact our world.

UTube Links

Voice of the Martyrs Introduction:

<https://youtu.be/Zz5FhuFHiU4>

North Korea: Martyred for Christ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqOuc7KFnAk&feature=em-share_video_user

Sarah’s Trail of Blood

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDw0EOYfXeY&feature=em-share_video_user

Action Pack Distribution Pakistan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TL5Lye_ffwg&feature=em-share_video_user