



#BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED

GETTING STARTED

When we live the good life according to Jesus we get joy but we also get persecuted. This text, and many others in Scripture remind us that persecution is inevitable for the follower of Jesus—while at the same time—our future reward is secure.

READ THE TEXT: Matthew 5:10-12

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. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. After reading the text, read John 15:18-20, 2 Timothy 3:12, and 1 Peter 2:20-25. Have you seen this thread in Scripture before?
2. Verse 12 says they persecuted the prophets before you. Discuss some of the trials of the Prophets (and Apostles, early church, and modern saints as well if you like — this is a theme that runs through Scripture and church history).

APPLY THE TEXT

1. Which would you be more likely to be accused of? Persecuted for being unnecessarily antagonistic or for avoiding persecution at all costs?
2. What do you notice? Where have you felt pressure for your faith? If you have not experienced the pressures of persecution, why not?



SHARE & PRAY

1. Read Acts 4:29-31 and lift up your “Acts Church-like” prayers to God.
2. Pray for the persecuted church around the world. There is more persecution of Christians happening now than in any other time in history.

