

The Beatitudes:
“Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted for Righteousness’ Sake”
Matthew 5:10-12

The life and character of the Christian described *indirectly*

1. Blessedness – Gk: MAKARIOS - “blessed” “happy” “completely fulfilled”

- One to whom God has drawn near, one whom God has drawn near to Himself;
- One in whom God is evidently working

2. The Characteristic indicating Blessedness: Persecuted!

(1) The place and significance of this characteristic:

- The character of the Christian *indirectly* described. i.e., this is how the world reacts
- 3rd mention of “righteousness”
- A kind of “final test” as to character
- Closely connected with the culminating description: “peacemaker”

(2) The Reason for Persecution: Righteousness (v. 10) // Devotion to Christ (v. 11)

- 1- Persecuted because true righteousness is evidenced in the life

How does it show itself? Particularly in the *characteristics already cited!*

The world is offended because of Christ!

- 2- Why is the righteous man persecuted?

- Paradox! A peacemaker, but one who divides! Matt. 10:34-35

(3) The Forms of Persecution

- “revile”

- “persecute”

- “say all kinds of evil against you falsely”

“for My sake!”

3. The Privilege Bestowed and Enjoyed

(1) Jesus urges a rejoicing!

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad...!”

(2) Great Reward!

v.10 “theirs is the kingdom of heaven”
v.12 “for great is your reward in heaven”

- The Kingdom is ours!
- Great heavenly reward is ours!

Further Application:

The Order and Arrangement of the Beatitudes:

1. The Christian in his disposition before God

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|---------------------------------------|-----|----------|
| (1) One who is poor in spirit | v.3 | |
| (2) One who mourns | v.4 | attitude |
| (3) One who is meek | v.5 | |
| (4) One who hungers for righteousness | v.6 | activity |

2. The Christian in his disposition toward others

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|------------------------------|-----|----------|
| (1) One who is merciful | v.7 | attitude |
| (2) One who is pure in heart | v.8 | |
| (3) One who is a peacemaker | v.9 | activity |

3. The World’s disposition toward the Christian

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| Persecution | vv. 11-12 |
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