

Sermon On The Mount

Matthew 5:9-12 The Peacemakers; the Persecuted

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

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

1. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. Mark each of the key words in a distinctive way each time they are used in the text.

Key Words: *God*, words that refer to *Jesus*

Underline the phrases that begin with the word *blessed*

Highlight the phrases that begin with the word *for*

3. Using the phrases which you underlined or highlighted, complete the following chart:

| Blessed are: | for: |
|--------------|------|
| | |

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. What do *peacemakers* do?

2. What do people who stir up strife do?

3. How does religious persecution in the United States differ from that in many other countries?

a. Why do you think American Christians suffer such minor persecution?

THE PEACEMAKERS, Matthew 5:9

1. We all want to live in *peace*, but sadly, being a *peacemaker* is the pursuit of the few. Scan the following verses and record our responsibility regarding *peace*.

Psalm 34:14, Romans 14:19, 2 Timothy 2:22, Hebrews 12:14, and 1 Peter 3:11

a. What does *pursue peace* mean to you?

1.) *Peace*, because it is a uniting of two or more parties, is not always possible. As a believer, what are some things God expects you to do when you are at odds with someone else?

2. To what extent did God go to make *peace* with you?

a. *Peace* receivers should become *peace* diffusers. Why is real *peace* impossible without first receiving and understanding the *peace of God* obtained for us on the cross?

3. Read James 3:13-18 and answer the following questions:

a. List the attributes of one who *sows in peace*. Verses 17,18

1.) How can these verses be a good indication of whether we are *peacemakers* or not?

4. What shall *peacemakers* be called? Matthew 5:9
 - a. Because true *peace* can only be offered by those who experience it, people recognize that *peacemakers* resemble their Father in Heaven, the God of *peace* (Romans 15:33). *Peacemaking* proves that we belong to God. You may not always be able to *make peace*. But, you can always extend *peace*. What are some ways to extend *peace*?

Personal: Which of those ways is most difficult for you? Why?

THE PERSECUTED, Matthew 5:10-12

1. The last of the Beatitudes speaks of those who have been *persecuted for righteousness' sake*. *Blessed* and *persecuted* are not commonly found in the same sentence. Define the word *blessed*.
 - a. Now, define the word *persecuted*.
2. What do we learn in 2 Timothy 3:12?
3. According to Matthew 5:11, what forms does *persecution for righteousness* take?
 - a. Consider Jesus. How was He an example of being *persecuted for righteousness*?
4. For whose sake are we to endure *persecution*?
 - a. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. As Jesus, during *persecution*, reminded Himself of the joy of seeing you in heaven, what are we exhorted to do?
 - 1.) How does enduring *persecution* for the sake of Christ, keeping His joy ever before us, help us to not only endure *persecution*, but to choose to live/act in a way that we know will bring *persecution*?

5. The teaching of the Beatitudes began with calling us to be *poor in spirit* and to *mourn*. Yet, how does Matthew 5:12 tell us to respond to *persecution*?
- a. What three reasons does Jesus give for this? Matthew 5:10,12
- 1.) How does experiencing *persecution* for the sake of Christ, enable us to experience the *kingdom of heaven* in this present life?
- 2.) It is important that we remind ourselves of rewards in heaven in times of *persecution*. Why?
- 3.) List a few ways the *prophets* were *persecuted*.
- a.) How does reflecting upon the suffering of the prophets inspire you or convict you in the area of suffering *persecution*?
- b.) What was the reaction of the apostles to *persecution* in Acts 5:41,42?
6. What would you say is the MAIN thing God showed you this week in our study?