

Chardon Christian Fellowship
Home Fellowship Lessons
The Beatitudes

Lesson 9: Blessed are Those Who have been Persecuted (Matthew 5:10)

I. INTRODUCTION

VERSE	BLESSED ARE ...	Explanation	REWARD	Explanation
Mt 5:3	Poor in Spirit	<i>Spiritually bankrupt</i>	Kingdom of heaven	<i>Salvation; citizen in Christ's kingdom</i>
Mt 5:4	Those who Mourn	<i>Lament over their sin</i>	They shall be comforted	<i>Forgiveness, assurance; Holy Spirit is The Comforter</i>
Mt 5:5	The Meek	<i>Gentle, mild, 'resting in God'</i>	Inherit the earth	<i>Rule with Christ on earth</i>
Mt 5:6	Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness	<i>Like tunnel-vision focused on God</i>	Will be satisfied	<i>Will be satiated or gorged</i>
Mt 5:7	Merciful	<i>Heart of compassion and forgiveness</i>	Will receive mercy	<i>Spiritual forgiveness from the Father</i>
Mt 5:8	Pure in Heart	<i>Heart devoid of impurities; purged</i>	Will see God	<i>See through spiritual eyes the handiworks of God</i>
Mt 5:9	Peacemakers	<i>We are His shalom-makers; workmanship of righteousness</i>	Called sons of God	<i>Adopted as sons & daughters through Blood of Christ</i>

II. LESSON

Read **Matthew 5:1-10**

A. Persecution

Have you ever been persecuted or “hated upon”? _____

Have you heard of the Coptic Christians? _____

Jesus addressed persecution in the Sermon on the Mount and we will look at the reasons for the persecution and the outcome of the persecution.

B. “Blessed are Those Who have been Persecuted ...”

The Greek root word *diōkō* is translated in English as “persecuted”. As a root it is used 45 times in the New Testament.

Definitions for *diōkō* include: to put in rapid motion; to put into flight, thus to pursue; to follow, pursue the direction of; to follow eagerly, endeavor earnestly to acquire; to press forwards; to pursue with malignity, persecute.

Matthew 5:10-12 _____

Other uses of *diōkō* shows us something about the attitude of the heart of a born-again believer.

Matthew 5:44-45 _____

Romans 12:13-14 _____

Philippians 3:12-14 _____

2 Timothy 3:10-12 _____

Regarding persecution:

“The state of the matter is this. Satan, the prince of the world, will never cease to fill his followers with rage, to carry on hostilities against the members of Christ. It is, no doubt, monstrous and unnatural, that men, who study to live a righteous life, should be attacked and tormented in a way which they do not deserve. And so Peter says, “Who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?”” (1 Peter 3:13) - John Calvin (1509-1564)

C. “... persecuted for the sake of righteousness ...”

The Greek root word *dikaiosynē* is translated in English as “righteousness”. As a root it is used 92 times in the New Testament.

Definitions for *dikaiosynē* include: righteousness; what is right and just; the act of doing what is in agreement with God's standards; the state of being in proper relationship with God.

Romans 6:12-13 _____

Romans 10:3-4 _____

“Not for any crimes they have done, for unrighteousness and iniquity, as murderers, thieves, and evildoers, but for righteousness sake: on account of their righteous and Godly conversation, which brings upon them the hatred and enmity of the men of the world.” - John Gill (1697-1771)

“The world will always say, away with such fellows from the earth. They are made to reprove our thoughts. They are grievous to us even to behold.” - John Wesley (1703-1791)

C. “... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven ...”

What is the Kingdom of Heaven? Kingdom of Heaven is the Kingdom with Christ as sovereign and includes those who have professed faith in Him. The term Kingdom of Heaven is only used in the Gospel of Matthew (32 times).

We saw it in **Matthew 5:3** ³ *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

We know someone is a Christian, in the Kingdom of Heaven by their humble spirit (Mt 5:3) and their walk being so reflective of Christ (so righteous) that those not of Christ persecute them (Mt 5:10).

James 1:12 _____

1 Peter 3:14-16 _____

1 Peter 4:12-14 _____

III. CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

*“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” **Matthew 5:10***

Summing this up, we know we are His by the persecution we receive because of righteous lives.

Why? _____

John 15:19 _____

But ... Lord please explain ... why persecution? _____

James 1:2-4 _____

We will find over the next several weeks that persecution is a honing experience for the believer.

Prayer requests:

Persecuted Christians in Islamic countries (Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Indonesia, Egypt, Turkey, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, Saudi Arabia), North Korea, China and Nigeria.

Resources:

- New American Standard Bible, NASB, Lochmann Foundation
 - New King James Bible, NKJV, Thomas Nelson
 - Mounce Reverse-Interlinear New Testament, Robert H. Mounce and William D. Mounce
 - New English Translation of the Bible, NET, Biblical Studies Press LLC
 - Bible Knowledge Commentary, John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, Victor Books
 - Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament, William D. Mounce. Cambridge Greek Testament for Schools and Colleges, Cambridge University Press
 - Expositor's Greek Testament, W. Robertson Nicoll, George H. Doran Co.
 - Barnes Notes on the Old and New Testaments, Albert Barnes, Baker Books
 - Thayer's Greek Lexicon of the New Testament, Joseph Thayer, Hendrickson Publishers
 - Strong's New Testament
 - New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible with Hebrew:Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries, The Lochmann Foundation
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| www.arabicbible.com | www.biblestudytools.com |
| www.biblehub.com | www.blueletterbible.com |
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