



**The Blessing
No One
Desires**

NorthRidge Church
Dr. M. David Myers
February 19, 2017

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying . . . Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. – Matthew 5:1-9

Considering Persecution . . .

We come now to the eighth and final beatitude. It speaks of a blessing no one wants—the blessing that comes to those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness. Of the beatitudes, this one would surely be the least popular. By definition, persecution involves pain and suffering, and who wants that? Most of us would rather have the blessing that comes to the merciful than the blessing that comes to the persecuted. Few healthy people freely choose the path of persecution.

The Paradox of Persecution

1. Persecution is _____ – John 15:20; 16:33; Matt. 24:9
Why Persecuted?
a. Because of the _____.
b. Because of the _____.
2. Persecution is a _____ – Acts 7:55; Heb. 11:36-38
3. Persecution Brings _____ – Luke 6:23
How does Persecution bring Joy?
a. It Confirms our _____.
b. It Produces _____.
c. It Cultivates _____.
d. It Results in a _____

Truth for Life

For the week of February 19, 2017
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Have you ever felt that you were persecuted? What was the setting? What was the cause of the persecution? How did it affect you? What was your response? How did it conclude?
2. Consider the verses below; all address the matter of persecution. What do the verses tell us about persecution? Our role in persecution? Cautions while in persecution? Our responsibilities in persecution? Our response to persecution?
 - o 1 Timothy 3:12
 - o John 15:18
 - o Matthew 5:44
 - o Romans 12:17-21
 - o 2 Corinthians 4:8-12
 - o Philippians 1:12-14
 - o Revelation 2:10
3. Persecution in Scripture is most often equated with righteousness. Why are the two linked? How does righteous living promote persecution? Read Acts 7:51-60. This is the famous stoning of Stephen. Why was Stephen stoned? What was Stephen's response to his accusers? As Stephen died, what was his request/prayer?
4. Some have "suffered" for the gospel because they were rude or insensitive. How can we make sure that it is not we, but the gospel, that is the cause of offense?

Action Step Challenge . . .

1. Consider "How Does Persecution Bring Joy" . . .
2. If (when) persecution comes to you, which one of these will you experience? It will likely introduce us to our greatest need. Is there a step that you can take (w/o persecution) to sure up that area?

Memory Verse

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. – Matt. 5:10-12



The Blessing No One Desires

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

February 19, 2017

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying . . . Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. – Matthew 5:1-9

Considering Persecution . . .

We come now to the eighth and final beatitude. It speaks of a blessing no one wants—the blessing that comes to those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness. Of the beatitudes, this one would surely be the least popular. By definition, persecution involves pain and suffering, and who wants that? Most of us would rather have the blessing that comes to the merciful than the blessing that comes to the persecuted. Few healthy people freely choose the path of persecution.

The Paradox of Persecution

1. Persecution is **Expected** – John 15:20; 16:33; Matthew 24:9

Why Persecuted?

- a. Because of the **Way we Live.**
- b. Because of the **Lord we Serve.**

2. Persecution is a **Gift** – Acts 7:55; Hebrews 11:36-38

3. Persecution Brings **Joy** – Luke 6:23

How does Persecution bring Joy?

- a. It Confirms our **Relationship.**
- b. It Produces **Dependency.**
- c. It Cultivates **Righteousness.**
- d. It Results in a **Reward**

Truth for Life

For the week of February 19, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Have you ever felt that you were persecuted? What was the setting? What was the cause of the persecution? How did it affect you? What was your response? How did it conclude?
2. Consider the verses below; all address the matter of persecution. What do the verses tell us about persecution? Our role in persecution? Cautions while in persecution? Our responsibilities in persecution? Our response to persecution?
 - a. 1 Timothy 3:12
 - b. John 15:18
 - c. Matthew 5:44
 - d. Romans 12:17-21
 - e. 2 Corinthians 4:8-12
 - f. Philippians 1:12-14
 - g. Revelation 2:10
3. Persecution in Scripture is most often equated with righteousness. Why are the two linked? How does righteous living promote persecution? Read Acts 7:51-60. This is the famous stoning of Stephen. Why was Stephen stoned? What was Stephen's response to his accusers? As Stephen died, what was his request/prayer?
4. Some have "suffered" for the gospel because they were rude or insensitive. How can we make sure that it is not we, but the gospel, that is the cause of offense?

Action Step Challenge . . .

1. Consider "How Does Persecution Bring Joy" . . .
2. If (when) persecution comes to you, which one of these will you experience? It will likely introduce us to our greatest need. Is there a step that you can take (w/o persecution) to sure up that area?

Memory Verse

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. – Matt. 5:10-12