

LIVING A Blessed LIFE

LIVING A BLESSED LIFE Part 7 – Handling Opposition To Your Faith Matthew 5:10-12

Pastor Mark Hartman, Lead Pastor - SCBC
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INTRODUCTION

The Voice of the Martyrs, <https://www.persecution.com>

Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1. EVERY SERIOUS CHRISTIAN WILL EXPERIENCE PERSECUTION.

- A. *2 Timothy 3:12 ...Everyone who lives a godly life in Christ Jesus **will** be persecuted,...*
- B. *Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his **cross** and follow Me.'*
- C. We will suffer persecution for **righteousness'** sake. (Matthew 5:10)
 - 1. *Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of **righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
 - 2. The Christian life **divides** us from the secular world over morals and standards, over how we view the world and how we respond to key issues.
- D. We will suffer persecution for **Christ's** sake. (Matthew 5:11)
 - 1. *Matthew 5:11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*
 - 2. *John 14:6 Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. **No one** comes to the Father except through Me.' (Jesus)*
 - 3. *Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is **no other name** under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*

2. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO PEOPLE WHO HURT US?

- A. Be determined to **stay** the course.
- B. **Forgive** those who hurt you.

C. Keep **trusting** God.

3. WHY SHOULD I RESPOND SO POSITIVELY TO PERSECUTION?

A. *Matthew 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

B. Because the persecution proves you are for **real**. (Matthew 5:12)

No one will persecute someone who is wishy-washy and **ineffective**.

C. Because of your coming **reward**. (Matthew 5:12)

Hebrews 11:26 Moses regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Action Steps I will take...

1. I will treat other people who disagree with God's Word about Truth, Morals or the Christian life with kindness, love and respectfulness.
2. I am willing to stand for Christ and for God's Word no matter the results.
3. I am willing to forgive those who mistreat me for Christ's sake.
4. I will count it an honor to suffer for Christ's sake.

CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.

Notes:

Series of horizontal lines for writing, consisting of 25 lines.

Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal lines.