

MESSAGE NOTES



Series: Kingdom Matters
Message: Blessed are the Troubled
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¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NLT)

persecution (def): to cause someone to suffer because of their belief

Persecution that Jesus is addressing has a specific reason.

Do you remember what I told you?...Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you.

John 15:20 (NLT)

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)

Persecution takes all kinds of forms.

Persecution calls for careful response.

Pray for yourself...

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

Ephesians 3:16 (NIV)

and pray for your enemy!

You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

Matthew 5:43-44 (NLT)

Persevere - without plotting pay-back

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. ²² He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

1 Peter 2:21-23 (NLT)

Have a party.

Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Matthew 5:12 (NLT)

4 reasons this isn't crazy talk:

Persecution is evidence that God's Spirit is working in your life.

So be happy when you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:14 (NLT)

Persecution is a badge of honor.

The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.

Acts 5:41 (NLT)

Persecution is temporary.

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

Persecution is followed by a great homecoming!

And we know we are going to get what's coming to us— an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

Romans 8:17 (MSG)