

**The Beatitudes**  
**Blessed Are the Persecuted**  
**Matthew 5:10-12**

**Introduction**

The beatitudes are interlocking. We begin our faith journey with a sense of spiritual poverty. However, when we complete the process, we are so spiritually connected with Christ that we face persecution just as He did. We come to God searching for authentic and genuine faith, but in the end, we wind up being persecuted for our faith.

1. The goal of discipleship is not persecution, but the \_\_\_\_\_ often is!
2. Since the very beginning, Christians have been \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In the 21st century, it is still not possible to practice Christianity \_\_\_\_\_ in many parts of the world.
4. Two-thirds of all Christian \_\_\_\_\_ died in the twentieth century.
5. It's hard to believe that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God upon us would produce hatred and animosity towards us.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ changes everything for the follower of Christ!

**I. The Persecuted**

7. Genuine \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ will cause you to face persecution without exception.
8. The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:12, "Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be \_\_\_\_\_."
9. In John Chapter 15, Jesus says, "If the world \_\_\_\_\_ you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated you.*"

10. Millions of house-church members are considered outlaws and \_\_\_\_\_ in China because their churches are not registered with the atheistic government.
11. In her book "The Lion's Den," Nina Shea writes, "It appears that anywhere from eleven million to one hundred million Chinese Christians belong to these \_\_\_\_\_ churches.
12. Persecution can come from your own \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Your \_\_\_\_\_ may persecute you.
14. Persecution comes from other \_\_\_\_\_ people.
15. Another source of \_\_\_\_\_ comes from governments.
16. The fifth source of persecution, Jesus gave the title of "the \_\_\_\_\_."

## **II. The Kingdom of Heaven**

17. There must be some \_\_\_\_\_ to rejoice and be glad in the suffering of persecution.
18. If the same reward in heaven could be obtained without suffering it would make suffering \_\_\_\_\_.
19. The more your faith is tested through \_\_\_\_\_, the greater your reward will be.
20. The Apostle Paul says that affliction "prepares" or "brings out in us" an eternal weight of \_\_\_\_\_.
21. God has a great \_\_\_\_\_ in store for the persecuted.

### III. The Blessing of the Persecuted

22. Jesus wants us to desire the reward of \_\_\_\_\_ more than we desire the rewards of the world.
23. Prophets of old were persecuted and \_\_\_\_\_ for the cause of God and righteousness.
24. According to Hebrews 11, early Christians suffered mocking and scourging, chains, and \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Christians were stoned, sawn in two, killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not \_\_\_\_\_!
26. Have you ever read the testimonies of those who gave their lives for Christ in Foxe's Book of \_\_\_\_\_?
27. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer left his prison room on the way to the gallows in 1945, he told the camp doctor, Payne Best, "You may think this is the end, but for me, it's the \_\_\_\_\_ of life."
28. Examine the prophets! Examine the martyrs! Do whatever you must do to \_\_\_\_\_ your heart on heaven!

### Conclusion

29. Jesus said, "\_\_\_\_\_ are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
30. The persecuted know that \_\_\_\_\_ rewards those who suffer for their faith and that God will reward them greatly.
31. The persecuted know they stand in \_\_\_\_\_ company.

In The Message of the Sermon on the Mount, John Stott writes, "It may seem strange that Jesus should pass from peacemaking to persecution, from the work of reconciliation to the experience of hostility. Yet, however hard we may try to make peace with some people, they refuse to live at peace with us. Not all attempts at reconciliation succeed."

Jesus warns us to stand faithful and not allow ourselves to be blown about by the world's ideologies. Doing His will governs our dealings with the world. If the world chooses to penalize us for this, that is a price we must be prepared to pay.

### ANSWERS

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|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Result        | 28. Focus   |
| 2. Persecuted    | 29. Blessed |
| 3. Safely        | 30. God     |
| 4. Martyrs       | 31. Good    |
| 5. Blessing      |             |
| 6. Persecution   |             |
| 7. Faith         |             |
| 8. Persecuted    |             |
| 9. Hates         |             |
| 10. Criminals    |             |
| 11. Underground  |             |
| 12. Family       |             |
| 13. Friends      |             |
| 14. Religious    |             |
| 15. Opposition   |             |
| 16. World        |             |
| 17. Reason       |             |
| 18. Useless      |             |
| 19. Suffering    |             |
| 20. Glory        |             |
| 21. Blessing     |             |
| 22. Heaven       |             |
| 23. Killed       |             |
| 24. Imprisonment |             |
| 25. Worthy       |             |
| 26. Martyrs      |             |
| 27. Beginning    |             |