

**The Teachings of Jesus**  
**Blessed Are the Persecuted**  
**Matthew 5:10-12**

**Introduction**

The believer begins a journey of faith that is marked by spiritual poverty. But, when he emerges from the process, he is so spiritually in tune with Christ that he becomes a candidate for persecution. A person comes to God hunting for authentic, genuine faith and winds up being the one hunted for his faith in the end.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of Christianity.
2. Christians are the targets of \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all acts of religious persecution.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Christians are killed somewhere in the world every hour, seven days a week, 365 days a year, for reasons related to their faith.
4. The deeper your faith and the greater your love for Christ, the more \_\_\_\_\_ this world becomes towards you.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the persecution changes everything for the followers of Christ!

**I. The Persecuted**

6. Genuine faith in Christ will \_\_\_\_\_ persecution.
7. When you decide to pursue an active faith in Christ, you will become one of Satan's \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Believers are \_\_\_\_\_ just as much in many parts of the world today.

9. The persecution of Christians is not just ancient \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ way the political and media arenas speak against Christianity may well be just as sinful as it was to murder them in Christ's time.
11. Persecution can come from your own \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Your \_\_\_\_\_ may persecute you.
13. The fear of losing friends and alienating family keeps some Christians from \_\_\_\_\_ their faith!
14. But that kind of difference makes others \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The light within us exposes the \_\_\_\_\_ within others.
16. Persecution comes from other \_\_\_\_\_ people.
17. Many \_\_\_\_\_ are misjudged, maligned, and scoffed at by people who call themselves Christians.
18. Another source of opposition comes from \_\_\_\_\_.
19. The fifth source of persecution is what Jesus called "the \_\_\_\_\_."

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

20. How will persecution \_\_\_\_\_ your reward in heaven?

21. The more your faith is tested through suffering, the greater will be your \_\_\_\_\_.

22. God has a great \_\_\_\_\_ in store for the persecuted.

### **III. The Blessing of the Persecuted**

23. Jesus wants us to desire the reward of \_\_\_\_\_ more than we desire the reward of this world.

24. He wants your heart to be so set on heaven that the thought of leaving this earth is a cause for \_\_\_\_\_!

25. Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of old who were persecuted and killed for the cause of God and righteousness.

26. Read the testimonies of those who gave their all for Christ in Foxe's Book of \_\_\_\_\_.

27. Do whatever you must to \_\_\_\_\_ your heart on heaven!

28. "He is no \_\_\_\_\_ who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

### **IV. Conclusion**

29. God rewards those who suffer for their faith and that their reward will indeed be \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.

30. In the same way, they persecuted the prophets who were \_\_\_\_\_ you.

31. However hard we may try to make \_\_\_\_\_  
with some people, they refuse to live in  
\_\_\_\_\_ with us.

We have only one Master, and serving him is like serving no other! It is doing His will that governs our dealings with the world, and 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. Persecution | 12. friends       | 23. heaven    |
| 2. 80          | 13. witnessing    | 24. rejoicing |
| 3. 11          | 14. uncomfortable | 25. prophets  |
| 4. hostile     | 15. darkness      | 26. Martyrs   |
| 5. Handling    | 16. religious     | 27. center    |
| 6. face        | 17. believers     | 28. fool      |
| 7. targets     | 18. governments   | 29. great     |
| 8. suffering   | 19. world         | 30. before    |
| 9. history     | 20. enlarge       | 31. peace     |
| 10. sinister   | 21. reward        |               |
| 11. family     | 22. blessing      |               |

#### QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. There are five sources of persecution: family, friends, other religious people, governments and the world. Which of these sources are you currently experiencing? In what ways?
2. Consider the testimony of persecuted prophets and martyrs. Which specific testimonies speak out to you most clearly? How can these testimonies help you persevere when you are persecuted?
3. If you were asked, "What things are you doing for Christ that are worth persecuting?" what would your answer be?