

## Study of Matthew

August 14, 2022

**Discussion Question:** What are good things to be persecuted for?

Matthew 5:10-12, Part 2

Persecute is defined in this verse as to put to flight or to drive away. It is to harass, trouble, or molest one

- When one is persecuted, they are troubled in some form with the goal of the persecutor of causing the persecuted to go away.

### Review:

#### 1. Reality of Persecution

John 15:20 *"Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."* [KJV]

#### 2. Relentless Variety of Persecution

Harass us until he drives us away from following Christ.

- Insults, False Accusations, Mocked, Mistreated
- Ostracized, Intimidated, Threatened
- The way they persecuted the prophets
- Tortured, Stoned, Beaten, Put in Prison, Exiled
- Finally death: Put to death by the sword, hung on crosses, cut in two

### TODAY:

#### 3. Reasons for Suffering (Bad & Good reasons)

##### a. Evil doer

1 Peter 4:12-16 *"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;"* [NASU]

What many of us call persecution is nothing more than getting a return on the evil that we are dishing out. We are just suffering as a troublesome meddler! **KJV calls this person a busybody!**

If we break the law and we have to suffer the consequences that is not persecution... that is civil authority being a minister of God (Romans 13)

##### b. Righteousness

Matt 5:10 *"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake..."*

1 Peter 4:16 *"but **if anyone suffers as a Christian**, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name."*

Here we find the person who is doing what is right. They live their life in alignment with the nature and character of God. Righteousness is the enemy of unrighteousness and the righteous find themselves in the tension between the two.

Remember all harassment from either the world, the system of the world or a religious person is to get you to stop being righteous. They want us to compromise. Compromise many times will cause the easing of trouble but moves you away from righteousness.

#### 4. Running from Persecution

Not all persecution is to be endured. Some are to be run from.

Matthew 10:16 – 25

vs. 23 *"But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next..."* [NASU]

Jesus slipped away from crowds that wanted to stone HIM. Another time when they wanted to throw HIM off a hill. In another place it says, Jesus escaped out of their hand. It wasn't HIS time so HE moves on.

Peter went to another town after the angel got him out of prison.

Paul ran from many places...seems that his choice to run had to do with the fact that he was bringing too much attention to himself and causing others to be persecuted. Even after being stoned to death on one occasion, he moves on.

#### 5. Rejoicing in Persecution

If we are being persecuted for righteousness sake, even if we have to run, we are to rejoice. (Rejoicing Run)

Matthew 5:12 *"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad..."*

#### 6. Reward of Persecution

Matthew 5:12 *"...for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."* [KJV]