



The Best Life

A SERIES THROUGH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 4 • MAR 1

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What kinds of activities do you like to do that feel hard in the moment but are satisfying once you've accomplished them?

BACKGROUND

The word "beatitude" means "supreme blessedness". In the first seven beatitudes, Jesus described what it means to have a right heart towards God and how that is displayed in our actions toward others. Those who possess these qualities are supremely blessed.

In this last Beatitude, we see how the world responds to such godly attributes. You might think that they would be held in high regard for its beauty and purity, but in reality, the darkness of the world often rejects and attacks such values.

In the Old Testament, God chose many different prophets to speak and act on His behalf. They were often sent to call out the people's sinful ways and to warn them of God's impending judgment. The people were given a choice: repent and rejoice in their covenant with God and all the blessings that followed, or continue in sin and suffer God's consequences. This was actually good news for the people, that they had a chance to be reconciled with God. But, as Jesus said, "...this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed" (John 3:19-20).

Even though the prophets were persecuted for speaking the truth, they were still blessed. And the same is true for us. Though we may be rejected for living the way that Christ did and for sharing His good news, we are supremely blessed.



KEY VERSES: Matthew 5:10

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

READ: Matthew 5:10-12

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. What is the reward for those who are “persecuted for righteousness’ sake”?
2. In what different ways was Jesus persecuted even before He was crucified?
3. How has persecution been a fuel for spreading the Gospel?

DEEPER DISCOVERY: *Read Jeremiah 26. Then answer the following:*

- Who threatened Jeremiah?
- How did Jeremiah respond when he was threatened?
- Who stood up for Jeremiah?
- What example persuaded the people not to harm Jeremiah?
- What is one thing you learned from this example?



HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God’s word.*

1. In what ways were the persecuted prophets of God also blessed?
2. Why is persecution a necessary part of the Christian life?
3. Name at least 3 things that Christians commonly get persecuted for in western culture. What does this persecution look like? Why do you think Christians are persecuted for these specific things?



HANDS LEVEL: *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What kind of opposition have you faced for living out your faith?
2. How can you develop a habit of rejoicing in persecution?
3. Take a moment to share any fears you have around persecution. How can you use God's Word to overcome these fears? Take some time to pray for one another, to live courageously and joyfully in persecution.



MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 3:14

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)