FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROCHESTER

Sermon Discussion Guide
November 1, 2026

Refresh
Read Matthew 5:10-12 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss
Why does righteous living sometimes provoke hostility from others? How might the account of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4; 1 John 3:12-13) help us understand why Christians should expect opposition?

Jesus says we are blessed when we are persecuted “for righteousness’ sake” (v. 10). How can we distinguish between suffering because of our faithfulness to Christ and suffering because of our own sin, unwise decisions, or unkind behavior?

What are some subtle forms of persecution or opposition Christians might experience in our culture today? In what situations might we be tempted to compromise our convictions to avoid rejection, embarrassment, or relational conflict?

In verses 10-11, Jesus connects persecution for righteousness with persecution “on my account.” Why is this connection significant? How can we make it clear to others that our convictions and conduct are rooted in our relationship with Christ and His Word rather than simply personal preferences?

Jesus commands persecuted believers to “rejoice and be glad” (v. 12). Why is this such a surprising response? How should the promise of a great heavenly reward change the way we view rejection or suffering in this life?

Pastor Mark mentioned the importance of communicating the cost of following Christ when sharing the gospel. Why might Christians be tempted to minimize that cost? How can we faithfully prepare our children and new believers for the reality of opposition without discouraging them from following Jesus?

We were reminded of the importance of gathering with the church as a refuge from a hostile world. How should our relationships, conversations, and worship together strengthen us to remain faithful to Christ? What are some ways we could better encourage one another in our growth groups to be bold for Christ in a world that is hostile to His truth?