

## THE BLESSING OF BEING HURT

Matthew 5:10-12

September 14, 2008 Sunday am

### INTRODUCTION

- A. There are preachers who preach a “prosperity gospel.”
- B. Jesus, however, preached a “persecution gospel”.
  - 1. We see it in our text.
  - 2. How can it be a blessing to be persecuted or be hurt?
  - 3. Let’s notice four things Jesus says about persecution.

### I. FIRST, NOTICE THE REALITY OF PERSECUTION.

- A. Persecution isn’t reserved for a few Christians living in Africa or China.
  - 1. The Bible says it will happen to each of us—v. 11 “when”.  
**2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,**
  - 2. When you buy a new car it comes with standard equipment, but you can pay extra for available options Persecution, however, isn’t optional. Its standard and at no additional cost!
  - 3. We all know that early Christians suffered severe persecution.
  - 4. And we may even be aware that today many Christians are still being put to death for their faith in places like the Sudan and Indonesia.
  - 5. Here in America, though, we don’t experience physical persecution.
- B. Although Jesus is referring to physical persecution in this passage, he also makes it clear there are other ways to be persecuted for your faith—v.11.
  - 1. This includes verbal insults and ridicule.
  - 2. We would never go out looking for persecution, but if you’re trying to live for Jesus it will come looking for you.
  - 3. If you’ve never been persecuted for your faith, you might consider whether you demonstrate it before others. Like the old bumper sticker: “If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you.”

### II. SECOND, NOTICE THE REASON FOR PERSECUTION.

- A. Christians are persecuted for the same reason Jesus was, because we are different.  
**John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.**
- B. Some bring persecution on themselves by making bad choices or being obnoxious. However, Jesus is talking about being persecuted for something undeserved —v 10-11.

### III. THIRD, NOTICE THE REACTION TO PERSECUTION.

- A. Jesus tells us to rejoice—v.12. Very strong words used here.
- B. Why should we do this?
  - 1. It proves we belong to Jesus.
  - 2. It proves we demonstrate our faith.
  - 3. Its confirmation we will be blessed for it.

### IV. FOURTH, NOTICE THE REWARD OF PERSECUTION.

- A. Jesus promised a reward-v.12.
- B. What reward?
  - 1. Not a promise of an earthly reward. There are, however, advantages and benefits from being a Christian, but its not wealth, that’s “prosperity gospel.”
  - 2. It’s a promise of heavenly rewards.  
**2 Corinthians 4:16-17 <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.**  
**<sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.**

3. The greatest reward is that we will be with Jesus!

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. So being persecuted is a blessing according to Jesus.
- B. Don't go looking for it, but don't be surprised with it comes.