



## Lessons for Life

### **LIVING WITH PERSECUTION**

#### **The BeAttitudes - 8**

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*"God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way." Matthew 5:10-12 (NLT)*

*"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."*

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

*"In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. All power to him forever! Amen."*

1 Peter 5:10 (NLT)

## 1. THE PRESENCE OF PERSECUTION

*"God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs."*

Matthew 5:10 (NLT)

*"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers."* Matthew 5:11 (NLT)

*"You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it."*

2 Timothy 3:11 (NLT)

*"Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."*

2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT)

*"But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit."*

Galatians 4:29 (NLT)

*"For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him."* Philippians 1:29 (NLT)

*"Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself."*

Philippians 1:28 (NLT)

*"And to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such troubles."* 1 Thessalonians 3:3 (NLT)

*"If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels."* Luke 9:26 (NLT)

*"What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds, for their ancestors also praised false prophets."* Luke 6:26 (NLT)

- **How are we to be persecuted?**

*"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers."*  
Matthew 5:11 (NLT)

- **Why does it happen?**

*"...for righteousness' sake..."*

*"...for My sake."*

*"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me."* John 15:18-21

## 2. THE PROMISE OF PERSECUTION

*"Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven..."*  
Matthew 5:12 (NLT)

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## 3. THE POSTURE OF PERSECUTION

*"Rejoice"*

*"How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone."*  
James 4:14 (NLT)

*"But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much."* Ephesians 2:4 (NLT)

*"But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me."* Luke 21:12-13 (NLT)

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