

Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023  
Subject: Sermon Notes  
Scripture: Matthew 5:10-12  
Title: "The Blessedness of Persecution"  
Speaker: Kevin Leong-Tiwanak

## The Blessedness of Persecution

### Quick Review

**The beatitudes** are eight radically bold statements of Jesus' intending to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, bringing true peace and freedom to those who dare to follow Him. Remember that: • They are statements of grace, not law. They are not entrance requirements to the kingdom of God. • They are not ethical demands or imperatives upon Christians for personal behavior, except to "rejoice" when experiencing the blessing of God in the middle of persecution.

- The blessings are both for the present AND the future.

### Key Definitions

- A. **Blessed**: fortunate, happy, free from daily cares and worries, supreme bliss at receiving divine favor
- B. **Persecution**: persistent and/or systematic harassment, hostility, oppression, and/or mistreatment of an individual or group, especially on the basis of ethnicity, religion, identity, or beliefs.
- C. **Righteousness**: conformity to the right standard - God's standards! Specifically within the Beatitudes, we are talking about subjective righteousness: living the right way in conformity to God's will.

### Today's Outline

1. Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1,2</sup>.

2. We experience persecution in order to \_\_\_\_\_ as followers of Christ<sup>3</sup>. 3.

As Christians, in response to persecution, we are encouraged to \_\_\_\_\_

and to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>.

4. We strive towards establishing \_\_\_\_\_, receiving the

\_\_\_\_\_, and rejoicing in

\_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>.

### Discussion Topics

1. Which of the eight beatitudes speaks to you most directly/personally at this point in your life? Elaborate.
2. What are some ways that we (individually and as a church) can encourage, support, and uplift our brothers and sisters who are experiencing persecution for the sake of righteousness? Explain.
3. Listen to each other with grace, and pray for each other. Pray especially for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are going through persecution.

<sup>1</sup> 1 Kings 18:13, 1 Kings 19:10, 2 Chronicles 24:20-21, Nehemiah 9:26, Jeremiah 20:2, Jeremiah

26:23.<sup>2</sup> 2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 23:30, 23:34; Luke 6:22, 6:26; John 15:18-25; Acts 5:40-42; 1 Peter 1:3-9.<sup>3</sup> James 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 4:8-12, Matthew 4:1-11.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid; Acts 5:40-42, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

<sup>5</sup> 2 Timothy 4:7-8, 1 Peter 4:13-14.