

P.M. OUTLINE
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BLESSED PERSECUTED

(Matthew 5:10 – 12)

INTRODUCTION - **“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”**

1. A “BLESSING” WHEN THESE THINGS HAPPEN

“Persecuted” - to pursue or follow after; to afflict or harass constantly; to trouble or annoy; purposefully injure or cause distress.

“Revile and persecute you” - to accuse, blame, discredit, defame, or disparage you; words used to “knock-down” your opponent.

“Say all kinds of evil against you falsely” - mud-slinging; malicious; deceitful; not true.

2. A “BLESSING” FOR THE RIGHT REASON

“For righteousness sake” - you are doing right; its that which conforms to God’s Word; doing whatever has been appointed by God; (Psalm 119:172) “My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness.”

(1 Peter 4:16) “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.”

“For My sake” - When we identify ourselves with Jesus, and let others know to Whom we belong and on Whose side we stand, the opposition will throw darts.

(Matthew 10:22) “You will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.” Note: (John 15:18 – 21)

3. A “BLESSING” TO “REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD”

“For theirs is the kingdom of heaven” - yes, being in the kingdom does not take away the troubles and trials; however, we have abundant help to overcome, to strengthen ourselves in the faith, and to value the blessing.

(Ephesians 6:10) “My brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.”

“For great is your reward in heaven” - (1 Peter 1:4) “to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you”
(1 Corinthians 9:25) “an incorruptible crown” (2 Timothy 4:8) “crown of righteousness”
(James 1:12) “the crown of life” (1 Peter 5:4) “a crown of glory”

“For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” - persecution is not new; you are not alone in this; others have stood where you now stand; and persecution is not a mark of God’s disfavor nor evidence of defeat.