

## **The Forgotten Jesus Podcast**

**S7E15**

### **Blessed are the Persecuted - Matthew 5:10**

**Description – Continuing to look at the Beatitudes, we examine those who are persecuted from Matthew 5:10**

Last week we talked about peacemakers from Matthew 5:9. Today we move on to Matthew 5:10.

#### **Matthew 5:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. <sup>11</sup> "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

We're living in times where we're seeing lots of persecution.

But the question is: Is Jesus talking about all kinds of persecution, or a specific type of persecution?

V. 10 says, "...who are persecuted for righteousness."

Righteousness is twofold:

1. Having a right standing before God.
2. Living a certain way for the Lord.

What is Jesus doing with the Sermon on the Mount? Who is his main audience? It's the disciples, and Jesus is teaching them how to live in the kingdom of God today. It's a challenge to the status quo of the day, and an invitation to live for the Kingdom today.

When Jesus gets to 5:21, He's going to start interpreting the law correctly. Remember, to follow a Rabbi is to listen to and follow his teachings.

When you follow a Rabbi, you follow the way that Rabbi teaches the Law. You walk after, you follow after this teacher.

Rabbi Hilel & Rabbi Shemai

Jesus's teachings were very similar to one, and contrasted with the other.

Hilel was known as gentle and compassionate, Shemai was known as conservative and very strict to the law.

When Jesus says “blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness,” He’s saying that you are blessed when you live a certain way for God. You’re living a righteous life for God.

Jesus says, just know, when you live this way (Righteous - keeping the beatitudes) you will be persecuted and hated by the world.

When you live this way, a kingdom, righteous life for God, you WILL suffer persecution.

In v. 11, Jesus says, ““You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me.” - Notice that the reason you’re persecuted is because you love Jesus.

Our lives should be so radically different from the world around us that there’s a clear distinction between the way we live in the light, and how the world lives in the darkness.

Think of John the Baptist here. He was a man who was persecuted for righteousness. For what he believed, what he said, and what he did. Herod took his head off because of the affair Herod was caught in.

Hebrews 11 - the hall of faith, or better, the hall of faithfulness. These saints aren’t known for what they believed; they’re known for what they did!

Faith / Righteousness - is how you live. It’s shaped by what you’re taught, and how you live.

The value of a life is not in the length it lives, it’s determined by the legacy that life leaves behind.

Jim Elliott - “Lord I don’t desire a long life, but I do desire a full life in you.”