



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“God Doesn’t Need Our P.R. Campaigns” (Matthew 5:10)**

Date: **June 17, 2018**

This week we are back in our mini-series in the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes serve as the charter of the new Kingdom that Christ is ushering in. They are descriptive of the blessed state, not prescriptive. Those that have been truly born again will increasingly resemble the type of person described in Matthew 5:1-12. The first 6 beatitudes dealt with the human heart. They described the heart condition of those who are blessed. The last few beatitudes describe how the person’s life is lived as a result of the transformed disposition of their hearts. A changed heart leads to a changed life. A changed heart leads to peacemaking (v. 9) and this week as we study the 8th beatitude, we will see that a changed heart also leads to persecution. When Christians seek to make peace in this world, they will be persecuted. Matthew 5:10 says, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” When we are persecuted for the sake of Christ and His righteousness, we can take heart because this reveals that ours is the kingdom of heaven.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 5:10 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. Review: What are the Beatitudes?
 - b. Review: What does it mean to be “blessed”? How should we define this word?
 - c. How is this beatitude connected to the first six beatitudes as well as the seventh beatitude?
 - d. What is persecution? Define it biblically. Give examples.
 - e. What is righteousness? Read Matthew 5:20; 5:48; 6:1. What do these verses teach us about the righteousness that Jesus is talking about in Matthew 5:10?
 - f. What are some examples of things we might do for the sake of the gospel that could lead to persecution?



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- g. Charles Spurgeon said, "It is a gift from God to be allowed to suffer for his name." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- h. The promise for those who are persecuted is that "theirs is the kingdom of heaven," (v. 10). What is "the kingdom of heaven"?
- i. Is persecution inevitable for the Christian? Think about that question then read 2 Timothy 3:12.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. The last beatitude we studied described how Christians are peacemakers. Why does peacemaking lead to persecution and opposition?
3. What are some examples of persecution in our world today? What are some ways in which you've been persecuted for your faith in Christ?
4. If we never face persecution in our life, is that a cause for concern? Why or why not?
5. How do you naturally react to persecution? What does our reaction to persecution tell us about where we are placing our hope?
6. In moments of persecution, what reasons do we have to rejoice? (See John 15:18-20, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 4:13-14, 2 Timothy 3:12)