

# Blessed Are The Persecuted

## ICE BREAKER

- What image or experience first comes to mind when I hear the word persecution? How would I define persecution?

### Matthew 5:10

Persecution - mistreatment; inflicting of suffering/fear, harassment, exclusion, imprisonment, torture, or death.

### REASONS FOR PERSECUTION *“because they live for God”*

Because of the Lord we Love (**John 15:18**)

Because of the Lives we Live (**2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:19**)

Have I ever known an arrogant, obnoxious, rude, know-it-all Christian who labels their poor treatment from the world as “persecution.” For what reason should a believer be persecuted, according to v. 10?

### RESPONSE TO PERSECUTION

First Instinct: React Defensively

New Posture: Embrace Grace “God BLESSES those who are persecuted”

- Guard against HATE (**Matthew 5:43-44**)
- Guard against REVENGE
- Guard against COMPROMISE (**Matthew 5:48**)

### RESULTS OF PERSECUTION *“for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs”*

**Acts 4:32-33; Acts 20:24**

- How do we prepare for greater times of persecution ahead?
- Persecution acts as the trigger that causes God to pour out his blessings on my life. If that’s true, what should my response be?

### APPLICATION

- Do I need to surrender my life to Jesus Christ and have my sins forgiven?
- What is one takeaway from today’s message?