

The Kingdom

10. The Blessing of Persecution

Matt 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The persecution principle *John 15:18-21*

Persecution/Identification Rule: *Matt 6:11*

Three common weapons: insults, persecution, and defamation – speaking evil against

Satan adds his power and influence to those who persecute the righteous. *Rev 12:17*

**The Gospel advances in the face of persecution
*Matt 24:9-14***

Satan's unholy anointing

Persecution is unavoidable if you walk in righteousness
2 Tim 3:12-13; 1 Peter 3:14

Insight

Rejoice and be glad *Matt 5:12; Luke 6:22-23*

Action steps: How to handle the persecutors
Luke 6:26-36

Love them

Do good to them

Bless them

Pray for them

Remain vulnerable and submissive

Remain generous

Love with a genuine godly love

Our ultimate goal is to be merciful like our Father
Rom 12:21

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righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*