



**The Beatitudes – Part 8
Blessed Are the Persecuted**

New Horizon Church 07-10-2022 Pastor John Raymond

Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV), “¹⁰Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of righteousness, for theirs is the **kingdom** of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people **insult** you, **persecute** you and **falsely** say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²**Rejoice and be glad**, because **great** is your **reward in heaven**, for in the **same way** they **persecuted** the **prophets** who were before you.”

1. Persecution is a _____.

John 15:18-21 (NLT), ¹⁸“If the world hates you, remember that **it hated me first.** ¹⁹The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but **you are no longer part of the world.** I chose you to come out of the world, **so it hates you.** ²⁰Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally **they will persecute you.** And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. ²¹They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me.”

2. Choose _____ over compromise.

Luke 9:26 (NIV), “Whoever is **ashamed of me and my words**, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

Daniel 3:15-23 (NIV), “¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

3. Value _____ over pleasure

2 Timothy 3:10-12 (NIV), “¹⁰You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my **purpose**, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹**persecutions, sufferings** – what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the **persecutions** I endured. Yet the Lord **rescued** me from all of them. ¹²In fact, **everyone** who wants to **live a godly life** in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted.**”

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV), “That is why, for Christ’s sake, **I delight in** weaknesses, in insults, in **hardships**, in **persecutions**, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Mark 4:16-17 (NLT), “¹⁶The seed on the **rocky soil** represents those who hear the message and **immediately receive it** with joy. ¹⁷But since they **don’t have deep roots**, they **don’t last long.** They fall away as soon as they have problems or are **persecuted** for believing **God’s word.**”

4. _____ conquers persecution.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NIV), “We are **hard pressed** on every side, but **not crushed**; perplexed, but not in despair; **persecuted**, but **not abandoned**; struck down, but **not destroyed.**”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT), “¹⁶That is why **we never give up.** Though our bodies are dying, our **spirits are being renewed** every day. ¹⁷For our **present troubles** are small and won’t last very long. Yet they **produce for us a glory** that vastly outweighs them and will last **forever!** ¹⁸So we **don’t look at the troubles we can see now**; rather, we **fix our gaze** on things that **cannot be seen.** For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will **last forever.**”

Romans 8:35-37 (NLT), “³⁵Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are **persecuted**, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶(As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) ³⁷No, despite all these things, **overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**”
