

**The Persecuted**  
*Matthew 5:10–12*

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**MAIN IDEA:** The Beatitudes describe all true Christians, meaning *every* believer in Jesus Christ displays *all* the qualities (8) that Jesus states in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:3, 10). In Matthew 5:10–12, we consider several important insights into what it means as believers to be persecuted for our faith.

**OUTLINE:**

- I. The Forms of Persecution (11)
  - A. Verbal Insults (11)
  - B. Personal Harm (11)
  - C. Lies & False Accusations (11)
  - D. Settled Hatred (Lk. 6:22)
  - E. Social Ostracism (Lk. 6:22)
  - F. Personal Contempt (Lk. 6:22)
- II. The Reasons for Persecution (10, 11)
  - A. The Wrong Reasons
    - 1. Unattractive, sour personalities
    - 2. Rude, thoughtless words and actions
    - 3. False, pompous spirituality
    - 4. Proud, judgmental attitudes
    - 5. Lazy, irresponsible work habits
    - 6. Unwise, foolish, offensive methods
  - B. The Right Reasons
    - 1. Because of Righteousness (10)
    - 2. Because of Jesus (11)
- III. The Response to Persecution (12)
  - A. Unbiblical Responses
    - 1. Surprise (1 Pet. 4:12)
    - 2. Bitterness (Lk. 23:34; Acts 7:60)
    - 3. Revenge (cf. Mt. 5:44–45)
    - 4. Discouragement (2 Cor. 4:8–9)
  - B. Biblical Response
    - 1. Rejoice (12)
    - 2. Be Glad (12)
- IV. The Blessings of Persecution
  - A. Assurance (10, 12c)
  - B. Reward (12b)
    - 1. Our Lord's praise (Mt. 25:21, 23)
    - 2. A greater capacity for service in eternity (Mt. 25:21, 23)

## **BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS**

1. Read Revelation 2:10 and 1 Peter 5:8. What do these verses teach us about Satan's relationship to persecution?

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Discuss your personal experience with each of The Forms of Persecution (see above). Did you react biblically in those situations? Discuss.
2. At times, why is it challenging to respond and react biblically to persecution? Why must our goal be to respond biblically? Discuss.
3. Are there people or settings in your life that could potentially give rise to biblical persecution? Discuss.