

# Blessed are the Persecuted

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – June 4, 2023

## Matthew 5:1-12

1 Now when [Jesus] saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10 Blessed 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."

## I. THE WORLD'S VALUES ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO JESUS' KINGDOM VALUES

### 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God (a peculiar people-KJV), that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

### Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

## 2. JESUS STATES THAT WE SHOULD EXPECT OPPOSITION & PERSECUTION WHEN WE FOLLOW HIM

### 2 Timothy 3:12

... everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

### John 15:18

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first."

## 3. JESUS DECLARES THAT WE WILL BE TWICE BLESSED WHEN WE ARE PERSECUTED FOR HIS SAKE

### Matthew 5:10

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

### Matthew 5:11-12

"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..."