

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED

Matthew 5:10-12

PAT NEMMERS

May 26, 2024

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

BONUS CONTENT

- For more information on persecuted Christians around the world, prayer guides, videos, and articles, check out **The Voice of the Martyrs** here (<https://www.persecution.com/>).

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, read through the entire Beatitudes passage again in several different Bible versions.
- This is our final sermon in our Sunday morning series on the Beatitudes. Spend some time talking about some of the surprising insights, reminders, or new ways you are more like Jesus because of this series.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat referred to several truths that help us live as followers of Jesus through persecution.**

God's Blessing Resides...:

1. On those who are persecuted

- Do you know of anyone who is or has been persecuted for their faith in Jesus? If so, tell that story to your group. If not, check out The Voice of the Martyrs website (<https://www.persecution.com/stories/by-region/>) for several real-life stories.

2. On those who are for righteousness sake

- What's the difference between Believers being persecuted because they are righteous and being persecuted because they are obnoxious? What's the line between the two?

3. On those who are persecuted, proving they are sons of the kingdom of heaven

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Suffering is the badge of true discipleship." Do you agree or disagree? Is it possible to be a Believer and not experience suffering?

Suffering Righteously Will Occur When Believers...:

Which of these four actions of true Believers is most difficult for you to apply right now? Read the passages and then talk about each one as a group:

- Live righteously (John 14:15)
- Love genuinely (Matthew 22:37)
- Look continually (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- Lay down willingly (John 10:18)

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard? ("I will...")

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you will live righteously and respond righteously in persecution.

