

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 21, 2022

“Living the Beatitudes: The Persecuted”

Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 1:1-9

INTRODUCTION

“All who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Timothy 3:12)

“For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.” (Phil 1:29-30)

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

“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The 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. Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you...” (John 15:18-20)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” (1 Peter 1:3)

5 WAYS THAT GOD BLESSES US IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING & PERSECUTION

#1. We’re blessed when we’re persecuted because God _____ us.
“You were chosen according to the purpose of God the Father and were made a holy people by his Spirit.” (1 Peter 1:2)

Our salvation wasn’t an _____—long before we chose God, He chose us—it was all His _____.

“We loved Him, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

Understanding this simple truth—that God chose me and has a _____ for my life—can bring me great _____ and hope.

“Nothing can separate us from God’s love.” (Romans 8:31-39)

#2. We’re blessed when we’re persecuted because God always shows us _____.

“All honour to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again.” (1 Peter 1:3)

God’s grace is _____ and unmerited—we can’t earn or buy it—it’s a _____ gift. Salvation isn’t based on what we do—we can’t make God love us anymore or any less than He does right now—salvation is based on God’s mercy, not on our _____.

“He saved us not because of the righteous things we’ve done, but because of his mercy.” (Titus 3:5)

“...through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.” (Colossians 1:20)

God made peace with us through the _____ of Jesus and we can have hope, because no matter how much we mess things up, He’ll always respond in _____.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11)

#3. We’re blessed when we’re persecuted because God has secured our _____.

“Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.” (1 Peter 1:3-4)

6 IMPORTANT WORDS

- _____ . The hope we have in Jesus is _____—it’s for today; in this moment—it’s not just about some _____ event.

• _____ . An inheritance is something you get when you belong to a _____—it’s like a birthright; a legacy that’s passed on through a will or bequest. Because we’re a part of His family, God has an inheritance for us that provides an _____ hope that far outlasts this _____.

• _____ . Once we accept Jesus, our salvation is _____ in heaven for us.

• _____ . Greek = *amiantos* = God’s promise of salvation is _____.

It can’t be _____. Once we have it, we can’t _____ it—we may reject it, but we can’t lose it.

• _____ . Unlike a flower, our salvation will never lose it’s _____ . It is _____.

God has already written the final chapter of our lives—and once we’ve put our hand in the hand of Jesus, we _____!

“There is hope for your future, says the Lord.” (Jeremiah 31:17)

#4. We’re blessed when we’re persecuted because God’s power will _____ us.

“And God, in his mighty power, will protect you until you receive this salvation, because you are trusting him.” (1 Peter 1:5)

protect = *phroureo* =

It is the same word as _____.

God is always _____ over us—and although things will come into our lives that threaten us, He promises to protect us until His gift of salvation is _____ in us.

It means that no matter what happens to us, our lives are firmly in God’s _____ and no amount of sickness or suffering can pluck us out. All we have to do, according to Peter, is _____.

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life.” (John 6:47)

#5. We’re blessed when we’re persecuted because God is preparing us for _____.

“So be glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for

you to endure many trials for a while. These trials are only to test your faith and show that it is strong and pure. Your faith is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” (1 Peter 1:6-7)

4 THINGS ABOUT THE TRIALS OF LIFE

- Trials are _____.
- Trials are _____.
- Trials are _____.
- Trials have _____.

3 THINGS GOD IS DOING

- He’s _____ our faith; “These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure.”
- He’s _____ our motives; “Your faith is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold.” God is more interested in our _____ than our _____.
- He’s preparing our _____.

“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.” (Romans 8:18)

“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.” (Romans 8:18)

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment.” (Romans 5:3)



I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!” (John 16:33-34)

“Adversity is the diamond dust heaven polishes its jewels with.”
~ Archbishop Robert Leighton