

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a


A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.


Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK




Charles & Jurdlean Strong | Mexico

PRAY - Our Church in Rio Bravo is facing a problem with their parking lot. The drug cartels live on the other side of the lot and they have started parking in the lot and blocking the entrance. Please pray as we have made the decision to purchase the lot so that the cartels can no longer use it. Pray for safety and wisdom as we go through this.

PRAISE - In spite of COVID, the Lord is working in lives. Last month we had 8 to accept the Lord and 4 were baptized. Praise the Lord for His continued blessings on our ministry!





Handout: 11/28/21

 Study: 12/05/21

Happy Are The Persecuted

How ought God’s people think about persecution? It’s an important question because how we think about it will necessarily affect how we face it. Will we face persecution with fear or with faith? To endure it with faith, we need something in particular to believe in, which is why God has given us his word. So consider these promises in Scripture for those who go through persecution.

1. We will face persecution

While imprisoned and awaiting execution, Paul wrote to Timothy, “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim. 3:12). “All” is not a throwaway word in this verse. Paul means it. Everyone who publicly lives as a committed Christian will face some kind of resistance from the world.

This verse ought to recalibrate our expectations. We should be surprised when we don’t face persecution, not when we do, because God’s word promises us that at times we will. That doesn’t make experiencing opposition easier any more than knowing your due date makes giving birth less painful. But at least you can be prepared.

2. There is blessing in persecution

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encouraged his disciples with these words, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 5:10). Jesus defines “persecution” as being reviled and having false things uttered about you. Could there be a better blessing than membership in the kingdom of heaven? Those who endure opposition in this world can be comforted by the fact that they belong to the world to come. One caveat regarding this blessing is that it is for persecution for “righteousness’ sake.”

3. God manifests His strength to those facing persecution

The Corinthians were looking down on Paul’s persecutions as a sign that God’s blessing was not upon his ministry, and that he was not an apostle to be followed. Paul corrected their thinking, telling them “For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:10).

It is common for Christians to define success in life as triumphalism and to equate strength with accomplishment. But Paul turns the common thinking on its head. Experiencing health and wealth is not the sign that God’s power is with you, but rather that you are enduring persecution through the strength he provides.

Source: “5 Promises For The Persecuted” by Eric McKiddie

KEY VERSE

Matthew 5:10 (NKJV)

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 5:1-12; II Timothy 3:12; II Corinthians 12:10

Introduction

1. The article on the cover begins with the question “How ought God’s people think about persecution?” What are some promises from God that should help shape our thinking?
2. How is the final Beatitude different than the others?

Tuesday: Matthew 5:11; Philippians 1:29; John 15:18-19

Expect Persecution

3. What types of persecution does Matthew 5:10-12 mention?
4. What types of persecution have you experienced?

Wednesday: Matthew 5:11; John 15:20-21; Acts 9:1-5

Understand Persecution

5. Based on today’s readings, what are some reasons we will face persecution?
6. What is the difference between being persecuted for righteousness’s sake and other times that we may be mistreated?

Thursday: Matthew 5:12a; Romans 8:17-18; I Peter 4:14

Respond With Joy

7. Matthew 5:12 points to our “reward in heaven,” a cause for joy in the midst of persecution. In contrast to rejoicing, what are our more natural reactions to persecution?
8. What reasons does Jesus give us to rejoice when we are persecuted?
9. What are some ways in which you experience persecution? How can you respond with joy?

Friday: Matthew 5:12b; Hebrews 11:36-38, 13:3; Acts 5:17-42

Remember The Prophets And Others

10. Why is it important for us to remember the prophets and others who were persecuted?
11. In Acts 5 we see the apostles putting this Beatitude into practice. What evidences do you see that God’s sovereignty upheld and protected the apostles?
12. What has God taught you this week about persecution? What is something He taught you in this Truly Happy series?