



BEATITUDES IV

So far we have covered in our study of the Beatitudes:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit
- Blessed are they that mourn
- Blessed are the meek
- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness
- Blessed are the merciful
- Blessed are the pure in heart
- Blessed are the peacemakers
- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake

With each topic we have seen that the Lord was teaching greater truths than meets the eye. We have covered the surface of the deep meaning of the scripture that is hidden from the world.

Matthew 5:1-12

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake

Throughout history the born-again Christian has been persecuted and reviled by the world. We have seen persecution done by the state, church, and the world in general. For years the Baptist church preached against those who have the Holy Ghost and speak in other tongues. The Catholic Church has a long history of persecuting the Saints. The world calls those who are filled with the Holy Ghost, "Holy Rollers."

This persecution is even prevalent in the Pentecostal community where one church or-

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ganization will condemn another. This persecution should not be within the Christian community, but when you read the Bible it was even happening during the Apostolic Age.

3 John 1:9-11

9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

The last living Apostle of Jesus Christ was not received as a saint in one church. This was a Christian church that was prating against the Apostle John with malicious words. Satan has a way of getting into the hearts of those who are not truly born of the Spirit.

Jesus told of this type when he gave the parable of the sower and the seed.

Matthew 13:1-23

1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured

them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye

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hear, and have not heard them.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

When you are persecuted by the church, you are persecuted by those who have no root. You are not being persecuted by the true born-again, Holy-Ghost-filled saints, but are being persecuted by those who hold fast to the world while claiming to be Christian. Diotrephes was a preacher and elder in the Church who was corrupted by the evil one. His own lusts deceived him into spreading lies about the Apostle John.

When the persecution comes from those who you thought were also born again, you need to remember that you are not being persecuted by the saints of the Lord, but by those who have not reached the maturity that others have reached. When this persecution comes from preachers, remember that preachers are

also growing in the Lord. There is a radio minister who railed against those who have the Holy Ghost until the Lord filled him with the Spirit. Needless to say when he received the gift of the Spirit, he came under the scrutiny of those who have not received the gift of the Spirit.

As you grow in righteousness and the Spirit the persecution increases. As the persecution increases, your strength in the Lord increases. Enduring this persecution makes you a stronger Christian. The Lord tells us to pray for those who persecute you. When you pray for the wicked who despise you or for the immature Christian who reviles you, you are praying for their salvation and growth in the Lord.

So, when you are reviled for being a Holy Roller, you are under the same persecution that the Apostle John endured. When you think about it, John's exile on Patmos may have been easier to endure than the prating persecution by Diotrephes. Here is a fellow preacher who is spreading lies about the Apostle. This was harder to endure than the heathen Roman persecution.

Matthew 5:11-12

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

We are to rejoice when we come under the strong persecution by the world and the church. The prophets were persecuted by their own people. So remember when you come under strong persecution, great is your reward in heaven.

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