



Blessed, Pt. 8: Those Who Are Persecuted

Generally, people try to avoid persecution of any kind. Jesus, however, says that all of his followers will experience persecution. So what kind of persecution can we expect and why, and how can we endure under its pressure?

Bottom Line: Persecution is normal, rejoice when it comes.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways have you faced rejection, opposition, intolerance, or persecution because of your Christian faith?
2. In the United States, how has the public view of Christians shifted in the last generation? What kind of environment do you think Christians in the United States will face 25 years from now?
3. Read **Matthew 5:10-12** and **John 15:18-21**. According to Jesus, what kind of opposition and persecution will his followers experience?
4. Read **2 Timothy 3:10-17**; **1 Peter 2:21-23** and **4:12-19**. What do you learn from these passages about enduring persecution?
5. While we don't need to try and avoid persecution, we certainly don't have to invite it by the way we handle ourselves within our culture. How does **2 Timothy 2:22-26** help in this regard?
6. What is the one thing you will do this week in response to this message?
7. What was the most helpful, encouraging, or challenging thought/idea from the message this week? How did it help or challenge you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

Resources:

[The Global War On Christians](#), by John L. Allen Jr.

Voice of the Martyrs: www.persecution.com

Open Doors: www.OpenDoorsUSA.com

International Christian Concern: www.persecution.org

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.