

ATTITUDE is Everything To Die For

Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV) Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

I. What is the reason for persecution?

The right reason for suffering persecution is for being like Jesus.

John 15:20 (NIV) Remember the words I spoke to you: no servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV) ... Everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

II. How do we handle persecution when it comes?

1. Know where it comes from.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) ...our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against authorities, against powers of this dark world.. Against the spiritual forces of evil...

3 types of persecution in vs:11.

a. Verbal abuse

"Blessed are you when people insult you..."

b. Physical abuse.

"Blessed are you when people persecute you."

c. Character assassination.

"Blessed are you when people falsely say all kinds of evil against you..."

Rom. 12:17-19 (NIV) Do not repay evil for evil.. Do not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath... it is written: it is Mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord.

Matthew 5:44 (NIV) Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

2. Rejoice over your mistreatment.

Vs.12 Rejoice and be glad,

Why should I rejoice when I get mistreated?"

3 reasons:

a. God's Spirit can be seen in my life.

1 Peter 4:14 (NIV) If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of Glory and God rests on you.

b. It means God can trust me.

Acts 5:41 (NIV) The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing, because God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Christ.

c. It is only temporary.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (LB) These troubles won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!

III. What is this great reward?

Vs.12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Romans 8:17 (GN) Since we are God's children, if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share in His glory.

Matthew 19:29 (NLT) And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.

IV. How do you get those rewards?

1. You commit your life to Christ.
2. You need to be baptized.