# **The Beatitudes- Part 10 Persecution Pt 1**

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Sermon on the Mount / The Beatitudes; Persecution / Matthew 5:3–12

# [Matthew 5:3-16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.3-16)

[Matthew 5:10-12](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.10-12) “10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Many Christians today, especially western Christians, i.e. American Christians because of the previous century of prosperity and religious freedom have moved into a very comfortable mindset towards their safety and security AGAINST any form of persecution. And **in large part we have NOT experienced persecution** and we kind of live in a bubble here in America.

According to Open Doors USA, the leading ministry that tracks persecution in the world, they report that as many as 360 million Christians live in countries where persecution is “significant.” Roughly 5,600 Christians were murdered. Let me help you with that number, that is more that the entire city of Salem, murdered EVERY SINGLE YEAR. More than 6,000 were detained or imprisoned, and another 4,000-plus were kidnapped. In addition, more than 5,000 churches and other religious facilities were destroyed. Churches in those countries have things like live hand grenades rolled down the isle during a worship service. Doors are boarded up during a worship service and the building set on fire

Last year at the SBC Annual Convention Meeting we sent out 79 new missionaries into countries where their lives will be immediately under persecution, so much so that many, during their sending celebration were silhouetted so they could not be seen because where they are going their lives will be immediately in danger.

Persecution has followed God’s people, His church since its inception. Today is no different:

› Understanding Context Who is Jesus talking to?

[Matthew 5:1-2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.1-2) “1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated **His disciples** came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:”

His Disciples: He is not speaking to the crowd, although the crowd heard his words, in [Matthew 7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt7) at the close of the Sermon on the Mount we read the response of the Crowd: [Mt 7:28](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt7.28) “28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the **people** were astonished at His teaching,” The word for **People** here in the Greek is ὄχλος (ochlos)[oh-close] and it means crowd, so the crowd was engaged in Jesus teaching but His focus was not the crowd but His Disciples

From the very beginning of Jesus ministry He begins to unpack to those who truly follow after Him this life will not be a bed of roses, it will be difficult, you will be persecuted by those around you.

All throughout Jesus Ministry this topic of Persecution has been taught by Him. WHY? because he did not want them caught unaware.

Matt 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matt 24:9“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

John 15:18-20 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

[Luke 21:12-17](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Lk21.12-17) “12 But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. 13 But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. 14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake.”

Mark 13:12-13 Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matt 10:21-22“Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

John 16:2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

In [Matthew 10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10) Jesus names the 12 Apostles and sends them out on their first journey. [Matthew 10:2-6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10.2-6) “2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Jesus tells them in the Sending that there will be persecutions: [Mt 10:17-18](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10.17-18) “17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. 18 You will be brought before governors and kings **for My sake**, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.”

He went on to tell them: [Mt 10:21-22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10.21-22) “21 “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 **And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake**. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

Those 12 men described in [Matthew 10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10) ALL died a martyr’s death except Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus:

**· Andrew: (brother of Peter)** Martyrdom by crucifixion (bound, not nailed, to an "X-shaped" cross) at Patræ, Achaia [southern Greece]. Hung alive for two days, exhorting spectators all the while.

**· Bartholomew (Nathaniel)**: Martyrdom by being tied in a sack and thrown into the sea. The most travelled of the Disciples after Jesus death, Preached the Gospel in Mesopotamia [Iraq], Persia [Iran], Ethiopia, Arabia and India.

**· James the Greater** (son of Zebedee / brother of John) : Beheaded. His accuser was converted by James' testimony & the two were beheaded together.

**· James the Lesser [son of Alphaeus]**: Stoned and then crucified.

**· John (The Beloved) (son of Zebedee / brother of James)** : Natural Death. but not for lack of effort. Banished by Roman Emperor Domitian [Duh-mi-shun] to Isle of Patmos **only after** having him thrown in a cauldron of boiling oil, which didn't kill him. While on Patmos he wrote Revelation, the last book in the Bible. Was later freed and died of natural causes in old age at Ephesus.

**· Matthew**: Martyred about 60 AD by being burned at the stake.

**· Simon Peter (The Rock /Petra)**: Martyrdom by crucifixion up-side-down at his request because he did consider himself worthy to be crucified like Jesus.

**· Philip:** Martyred - Stoned to death

**· Simon [The Canaanite]**: Martyred sawn in half.

**· Thomas [Didymus]**: Martyred thrust through by spear

**· Judas (Not Iscariot the betrayer)** Martyred beaten to death by a club

Other early church leaders:

· Mark (John Mark): Author of the Gospel of Mark - Martyred - dragged to death.

· Luke: Author of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. Martyred Was hanged on an olive tree,

· Matthias [Disciple who filled the place of Judas [Acts 1:20-26](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ac1.20-26) ] : Martyred Was stoned and beheaded at Jerusalem.

· Apostle Paul (Saul): Wrote almost half of the New Testament was beheaded by Emperor Nero at Rome. [2 Corinthians 11:25](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Co11.25) “25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;”

· James (The half-brother of Jesus): Pastor of the Jerusalem church, wrote the book of James - Martyred - Thrown from the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem, survived so they stoned him.

· Jude (The half-brother of Jesus): Wrote Book of Jude. Martyred by being beaten with a club then sawn in two

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This is part of the Testimony of the truth of the Gospel:

That Jesus came, Lived a perfect sinless life, suffered and was crucified, buried and was in the tomb for three days and rose from the Grave alive on the third day. The testimony of countless believers over the last 2000 years who have willingly given their lives rather than deny what they knew was true and what they knew in their hearts by experiencing the life of Christ in them.

[Revelation 12:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Re12.11) “11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

• They overcame because of Christ blood shed for them, the payment of their debt [Romans 6:23](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro6.23) “23 For the wages of sin is death...”

• They overcame because of their testimony that Christ is their Lord [Romans 10:9-10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro10.9-10) “9 that if you **confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus** and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

• They overcame by choosing to lay down their life over the truth they knew, believed and experienced!

Persecution is a guarentee in this world, the world hates Jesus, and hates His followers. It will come here too.