# **The Beatitudes- Part 11 Persecution Pt 2**

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Sermon on the Mount / The Beatitudes; Persecution; Forgiveness / Matthew 5:3–12; Matthew 5:10–12

[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.”

Last week we discussed the “context” of this verse, remembering that Jesus focus is not the crowd, its not the multitude. They get to participate in receiving Jesus words but He is focused on His Disciples.

This Sermon is on the Character of the citizens of the Kingdom of God. It is addressed to believers who have entered the Kingdom by placing their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. H. Dodd has pointed out, “The ethics of the sermon on the mount are the absolute ethics of the Kingdom of God.”

In the Beatitudes there are **two** that have present tense promises and **six** that have future tense

The opening and the closing beatitudes both end with “Theirs is the kingdom of heaven” Verse 3 and verse 10.

The first is distinctly related to the beginning of our citizenship, our coming to Christ must find us poor in spirit:

*Poor in the Greek is ptochos [p-toe-hose]*, which means **utterly destitute, with no means of self-support, wholly dependent on someone else for sustenance.**

Coming to Christ one must recognize that their ethnic heritage, their cultural status, or success in life will not get them into the Kingdom of Heaven. The amount of good things they do in life, how moral they are, how serving they are, none of those things will get you into the Kingdom of Heaven.

But being poor in spirit, recognizing I have nothing that would merit my salvation, but am totally dependent on the sacrifice Christ has made on the cross, it is theirs that is the kingdom of God.

This second present tense beatitude, with the same ending, “Theirs is the kingdom of heaven” is where we find ourselves today. Blessed are the persecuted for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven”

The beginning of our Christian journey is Coming to Christ poor in spirit we become citizens of the kingdom. Present tense. it is not some future experience it is a present reality.

Why does Jesus repeat this present tense language? What does He mean those who are persecuted, theirs is the kingdom of heaven?

Let me say it this way: You have entered the Kingdom through Christ and if you are in the kingdom, living these kingdom principles, you will be persecuted.

Persecution is like the goldsmith’s hallmark on real silver and gold; it is one of the marks of a converted man. - **J. C. Ryle**

The Kingdom of God must be the perspective through which we view and endure persecution. It is the lens, the Paradigm the framework to endurance:

Jesus said He who endures to the end will be saved [Mt 10:22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10.22) “22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.” [Mk 13:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mk13.13) “13 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

[Jn 16:33](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn16.33) “33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.””

[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.”

Endurance obtained through right perspective: Kingdom perspective

The Greek word here “persecuted” is διώκω (diōkō)[dee-o-ko] means: to systematically oppress and harass, pursue, chase, as in war, drive or chase away

Systematically: methodical in procedure and plan, marked by thoroughness and regularity

### Why will they persecute you?

Verse 10:“10 Blessed are those who are persecuted **for righteousness’ sake**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Verse 11: “11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely **for My sake**.”

**1. For righteousness sake:** [Matthew 5:6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.6) “6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

Righteousness in the Bible has at least three aspects: legal, moral and social.

Legal righteousness is justification, a right relationship with God.

Moral righteousness is that righteousness of character and conduct which pleases God.

Social righteousness is the pursuit of righteousness in the whole of broken humanity.

Persecution for righteousness’ sake is what every child of God must expect. - **Charles Simeon**

**2. For the sake of Jesus and His Gospe**l, [1 Peter 4:14-16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Pe4.14-16) “14 If you are **reproached for the name of Christ**, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part **He is glorified**. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. 16 **Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter**.” [Philippians 1:27-28](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Php1.27-28) “27 Only **let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 **and not in any way terrified by your adversaries**, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.”

### Two types of persecution

1. Verbal - [Mt 5:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.11) “11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and **say all kinds of evil against you falsely** for My sake.”

2. Physical - [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.” [Matt 10:21-22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10.21-22)“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.

If you remember in our introduction we spoke a little of this particular beatitude in one of its unique characteristics: It is one of two places in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus make a reference and revisits it afterward with emphasis: the second of these is where Jesus uses similar emphases [Matthew 6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt6) in the Lords Prayer on forgiveness

[Matthew 6: 12-15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt6.12-15) *“12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*  vs 12 in the teaching on how to pray he tells the disciples to pray for forgiveness as they also offer forgiveness and vs 14-15 right after the closing of the prayer Jesus revisits vs 12 with additional emphasis on forgiveness.

These two things get double emphasis PERSECUTION & FORGIVENESS in the Sermon on the Mount and both are distinctly linked together. We will get into that a little later but I want us to begin by understanding “How” we respond to persecution is very important!

Jesus modeled forgiveness in the midst of persecution on the Cross: [Luke 23:34](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Lk23.34) “34 Then Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”** And they divided His garments and cast lots.”

The First Martyr recorded in the Bible, Stephen in [Acts 7:60](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ac7.60) “60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, **“Lord, do not charge them with this sin.”** And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Later in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talks about forgiveness [Mt 5:43-44](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.43-44) “43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,”

Love, Bless, Do Good to and Pray for - These are the responses of one who is a Kingdom Citizen: “For Theirs IS the Kingdom of God” This is the response to persecution!