

## Happy are the Harassed

Series: *Jesus Uncut – Sermon on the Mount*  
– Matthew 5:10-12 –

*“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.”*

### 1. Why Should We Anticipate Persecution?

1. Because of the [Life We Live](#)

2. Because of the [Lord We Love](#)

### 2. How Should We Respond to Persecution?

\* Two reasons why persecution is cause for rejoicing:

1. It confirms [our Relationship](#)

2. It confers [a Reward](#)

*“Afflictions are the cause of eternal glory. Not the meritorious cause, but still the procuring cause. God has seen fit to reveal his purpose not only to reward with exceeding joy the afflictions of his people, but to make those afflictions the means of working out that joy.”*  
– Charles Hodge

#### Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. It was said, “If you’re the person of vss. 3-9, you’ll get the persecution of vss. 10-12.” Why would the world persecute the kind of people described in the Beatitudes?
3. We read of Christians in other countries suffering beatings, torture, beheadings, and worse. Is persecution an inevitable experience for Christians here in the West? Why or why not?
4. What is the most subtle form of persecution you have experienced or seen aimed at other Christians (consider I Pet. 4:3-4; Heb 10:33-34)
5. How do you explain why God sometimes delivers you out of hardships (Heb. 11:32-35a), but at other times He allows you to go through them (Heb. 11:35b-38)?
6. Summarize Paul’s view of persecution and suffering using II Cor. 4:16-18. How are you encouraged and/or convicted by this?
7. What do you think of the quote by Charles Hodge? How does it compare with Rom. 1:17-18?

