

The Beatitudes – The Road To Happiness #8

September 23, 2007

“Happy To Be Harassed”

Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV) ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 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.

Living by the Beatitudes guarantees two things:

_____;

- Harassment as a Christian is _____

John 15:18-22 (NLT) ¹⁸ “When the world hates you, remember it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ The world would love you if you belonged to it, but you don’t. I chose you to come out of the world, and so it hates you. ²⁰ Do you remember what I told you? ‘A servant is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you! ²¹ The people of the world will hate you because you belong to me, for they don’t know God who sent me. ²² They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin.”

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

How do I handle harassment for being a Christian?

1. _____

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

The person who is the _____ is the _____

2. _____

Romans 12:17, 19, 21 (NLT) ¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁹ Dear friends, never

avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, “I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it,” says the Lord. ²¹ Don’t let evil get the best of you, but conquer evil by doing good.

3 kinds of persecution:

_____;

Matthew 11:19 (NIV) The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.”’

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

3. _____ in the middle of harassment

Why do I rejoice when I am persecuted?

- It means Jesus is being _____ in me

1 Peter 4:14 (NLT) Be happy if you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the glorious Spirit of God will come upon you.

- It means God _____ me

Acts 5:41 (NLT) The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NLT) The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

- It is only _____

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT) ¹⁷ For our present troubles are quite small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don’t look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

4. _____ to remain faithful

1 Peter 4:19 (NIV) those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

September memory verse: Matthew 6:21 (NIV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.