

REDEFINING HAPPINESS

Part 10 - **The Persecuted are Happy** - March 14, 2010

Matt. 5:1-12 ... When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. v.2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: v.3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. v.4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. v.5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. v.6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. v.7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. v.8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. v.9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. **v.10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. v.11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. v.12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

I. What is persecution ?

2 Tim. 3:12 ... Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Phil. 1:29 ... For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake ...

A: Taking a **stand** for Jesus.

II. Where does persecution come from ?

Ps. 143:3 ... For the enemy has persecuted my soul ...

John 15:18-20 ... "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. v.19 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. v.20 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.

A: The **enemy**.

III. What's the reward for persecution?

Matt. 5:11-12

Acts 7:54 ... When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. v.55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God ...

A: They **see God** in ways no one else can.