

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.

Matthew 5:10–12 (NIV)

HOW TO REACT WHEN PEOPLE PERSECUTE YOU

1. DON'T BE SURPRISED

*Dear friends, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

*In fact, **everyone** who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*

2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves...

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

Remember what I told you: “A servant is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also...

John 15:20 (NIV)

2. LET GOD DO HIS THING

Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal.

Psalms 69:4 (NIV)

You, God, know my folly; my guilt is not hidden from you. Lord, the Lord Almighty, may those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me; God of Israel, may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me.

Psalms 69:5–6 (NIV)

But I pray to you, Lord, in the time of your favor; in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation. Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.

Psalms 69:13–14 (NIV)

May the table set before them become a snare; may it become retribution and a trap. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever. Pour out your wrath on them; let your fierce anger overtake them. May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents. For they persecute those you wound and talk about the pain of those you hurt. Charge them with crime upon crime; do not let them share in your salvation. May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.

Psalms 69:22–28 (NIV)

Imprecatory Psalms

Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the grave.

Psalms 55:15 (NIV)

May his children be fatherless and his wife be a widow.

Psalms 109:9 (NIV)

Oh God, break the teeth in their mouths.

Psalms 58:6 (ESV)

You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:43–45 (NIV)

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:14 (NIV)

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:23 (NIV)

3. REMEMBER YOUR REWARD

*Rejoice and be glad, because **great is your reward in heaven**, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Matthew 5:12 (NIV)