

Small Group Questions: How to React When People Persecute You

Series: How To Be Happy

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Read

Matthew 5:10-12; 5:43-45

Reflect

After Jesus gives us the prior Beatitudes, he concludes with his final one: “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Perhaps he knew humanity would struggle the most with how to respond while under persecution, especially since “rejoicing and being glad” goes against the grain of our culture. When people insult and hurt us, it’s an invitation to kingdom living, not just for yourself but also for your persecutor. By choosing to rejoice and be glad, we are given the opportunity to show the love of Christ and be set apart from the world.

Pastor Greg Surratt highlights three ways in which we can stand in the face of persecution and declare the battle has already been won.

1. Don't be Surprised

- a. What is your first reaction when you have been persecuted against?
- b. Give an example of when you faced persecution.
 - i. What was the outcome of your initial reaction?
 - ii. How could you have responded differently?
- c. How does believing your pain has a purpose change your view on persecution?
- d. How do we cultivate joy in the midst of persecution?

2. Let God Do His Thing

- a. What happens when we take matters into our own hands?
- b. Describe a time where your hurt ended up hurting someone else.
- c. Who in your life has persecuted against you?
 - i. How can you pray for them?
 - ii. What does it look like to hand the situation over to God?

3. Remember your Reward

- a. What are some ways to help us remember to do the right thing during persecution?
 - i. How can your small group help with accountability?
 - ii. What are some daily habits that would help us?
- b. How do you feel knowing you can do all the Beatitudes correctly and you will still be persecuted against?
 - i. How can we use our pain as a means to invite others into the Kingdom of God?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?