

Matthew Series

Lesson #024

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Dean Bible Ministries

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MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

How to Be Happy – Part VII

Persecution and Rewards in Heaven

Matt. 5:10–12

I. The Setting: 5:1, 2

II. The Character and Calling of those who inherit the kingdom, 5:3–5:16

Matt. 5:10, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:11, “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Matt. 5:12, “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

1. The last of the beatitudes is composed of a double blessing statement, the second one in vs. 11 expands the first: “persecuted for righteousness’ sake” is expanded to “when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.”

Matt. 5:10, “Blessed are those who are persecuted **for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Matt. 5:11, “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely **for My sake.**

Matt. 5:12, “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matt. 5:10, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

ἐνεκεν *heneken*

expresses cause or reason

Matt. 5:11, “Blessed are you who are reviled and persecuted you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.”

Matt. 5:12, “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

2. The parallel shows the significance of Jesus.

- If we are persecuted for being a disciple of Jesus, it shows how significant the world thinks Jesus is.**
- If God rewards us for enduring unjust persecution because of Jesus, then this shows how significant Jesus is in the eyes of God.**
- Jesus compares His representatives with the prophets who represented God. This shows how significant Jesus viewed Himself.**

3. The explanation of how persecution is related to happiness is stated twice to be related to future inheritance and rewards in the kingdom.

4. Persecution is one form of suffering; but suffering specifically because of a person's stand for the truth of the Gospel and the Christian way of life.

**διώκω *diōkō* perf pass part masc plur
nom to pursue, persecute**

**The perfect tense indicates completed
action in the past; the article indicates
this is understood more as a noun
naming a class of people than as a
verb.**

διώκω *diōkō* aor act subj 3 plur to pursue, persecute. The subj indicates an uncertain, but probable. When used with the temporal adverb, when, it indicates a future probability.

Matt. 5:44, “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,”

John 15:20, “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.”

Rom. 12:14, “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”

1 Cor. 4:12, “And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;”

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

Heb. 10:32, “But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

Heb. 10:33, “partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;

Heb. 10:34, “for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.”

Heb. 10:35, “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Heb. 10:36, “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:”