

Series: Making Much of the Master

# HE OPENED HIS MOUTH AND TAUGHT THEM MATTHEW 5

Text: Matthew 5:2

## **Matthew 5:2**

<sup>2</sup> *And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,*

Introduction:

The Sermon on the Mount is the sermon the Lord gave and is recorded in Matthew 5 – 7.

The reason it is known as the Sermon on the Mount is found in the first two verses which serve as an introduction to the message.

## **Matthew 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> *And seeing the multitudes, **he went up into a mountain**: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:* <sup>2</sup> *And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,*

The Sermon on the Mount is the most famous sermon the Lord ever gave, perhaps the most famous sermon ever delivered and preached by anyone.

The Sermon on the Mount covers several different topics.

Note a brief outline of the sermon:

- The Character of Those Wanting to Be Blessed (5:3-12)
- The Conduct of Those Being Blessed (5:13-16)
- The Contrast of Those Being Blessed (5:27-48)
- The Counsel For Those Wanting to Be Blessed (6:1-7:23)

The sermon concludes in Matthew 7:28-29 with these words:

***Matthew 7:28-29***

<sup>28</sup> *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, **the people were astonished at his doctrine:***

<sup>29</sup> *For **he taught them as one having authority,** and not as the scribes.*

Because of the depth and various topics addressed in this sermon we will only be able to consider some of them before we close out this year.

Today we will consider one of the Characteristics of Those Wanting to Be Blessed.

## **Matthew 5:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> **Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.* <sup>12</sup> *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Verse 10 describes persecution in general and verses 11-12 describe a specific form of persecution.

In light of some of the recent events regarding the persecution of Christians I wanted to share a few thoughts this morning.

Remember we are living in a wicked world and evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse, and the Lord let us know that persecution would come:

## **John 15:20**

<sup>20</sup> *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, **they will also persecute you;** if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

Note:

# 1. THE CHARACTER OF PERSECUTION

The character of persecution will separate if you will the men from the boys in commitment to live holy lives.

We will note two things as we consider the character of persecution.

## A. Painfulness of Persecution

The word “persecute” means pursue with the intent to cause suffering.

History reminds us of many Christians who were imprisoned, beaten, beheaded, and of other bloody attacks.

While the physical pain is great there is also the mental pain that must be considered as well.

The agony of seeing a husband or wife or child cruelly tortured or murdered by persecutors leaves painful scars mentally and emotionally.

Remember pain and persecution go hand in hand.

Note not only the Pain of Persecution but also:

## B. Persistency of Persecution

Again the word “persecuted” in our text speaks of pursuing which has the idea of persistence or a continual pursuit.

It’s unrelenting.

It doesn’t deliver one blow and then quit, but delivers blow after blow.

We see that being done even in our day. The persistency of the persecutors.

Note not only the “Character of Persecution” but secondly:

## **2. THE CAUSE OF PERSECUTION**

The text is very plain as to the cause for persecution.

The cause for persecution is righteousness.

The cause for persecution tells us who will be persecuted and who will persecute.

Note:

## A. Who Will Be Persecuted

With righteousness the cause of persecution, we can predict with accuracy who are going to be persecuted.

It will be those who live righteous or holy lives.

Note the words the Lord led Paul to pen:

### **2 Timothy 3:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Yea, and all **that will live godly** in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

With righteousness being the cause of persecution we can also eliminate many suffers from the persecuted category.

Again note 2 Timothy 3:12:

### **2 Timothy 3:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Yea, and all that will live godly **in Christ Jesus** shall suffer persecution.*

Many try to claim their suffering or their cause as persecution when it is not.

Those who flew planes into buildings full of innocent people were not doing so because of a desire to be persecuted. They are not living godly in Christ Jesus.

Terrorist storming into a Christmas party and killing innocent people are not those persecuted because they are not living godly in Christ Jesus.

Posing as the persecuted is a favorite stunt of many.

Note:

**1 Peter 4:15-16**

*<sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. <sup>16</sup> Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

Be careful not to equate the suffering one experiences for misguided zeal, lack of wisdom, lack of tact, and lack of good manners or suffering for strange and provocative habits as the persecution spoken of here.

Many suffers are suffering because of things brought on by their own deficiencies not by their devotion to the truth and righteousness.

Logically it seems strange that good people should be treated wrongly because they are good.

Why is it so?

**Proverbs 29:27**

*27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.*

Remember godly convictions will alienate you from a lot of people and unholy people will strike back whenever they can.

Note not only “Who Will Be Persecuted” but also:

B. Who Will Be the Persecutors

With righteousness the cause of persecution we know without a doubt who it is that will be the persecutors.

It will be the unrighteous who will persecute the righteous.

Again note:

**Proverbs 29:27**

*27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: **and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.***

Wicked people hate God.

They may describe their hatred as something else but down deep inside their heart, the ungodly hate God



and righteousness with a passion. Therefore they will persecute righteousness whenever they are able.

Often persecution of the righteous will come from unexpected places.

It may come from those claiming to be religious, i.e. Muslims.

By the way it is not a peaceful religion. It is a religion of hate and with the agenda of the eradication of all who are not Muslims and the Jewish people.

There are at least 109 verses that call Muslims to war with nonbelievers for the sake of Islamic rule.

Some are quite graphic with commands to chop off heads and fingers and kill infidels (anyone not a Muslim) wherever they may be hiding.

Muslims who do not join the fight are called “hypocrites” and warned that Allah will send them to Hell if they do not join in the slaughter.

Note a few quotes from the Quran.

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*SHAKIR: And kill them wherever you find them, and drive them out from whence they drove you out, and persecution is severer than slaughter, and do not fight*

*with them at the Sacred Mosque until they fight with you in it, but if they do fight you, then slay them; such is the recompense of the unbelievers.*

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*SHAKIR: The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His messenger and strive to make mischief in the land is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned; this shall be as a disgrace for them in this world, and in the hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement,*

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*SHAKIR: When your Lord revealed to the angels: I am with you, therefore make firm those who believe. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them.*

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**SHAKIR:** And fight with them until there is no more persecution and religion should be only for Allah; but if they desist, then surely Allah sees what they do.

We note not only “The Character and Cause of Persecution” but lastly:

### 3. THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PERSECUTED

#### Matthew 5:10

<sup>10</sup> Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for ***theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

Persecution brings blessed compensation to the persecuted one.

Note the compensation stated:

A. It's a Royal Blessing

Kingdoms belong to royalty.

Note the words –“Theirs **IS** the kingdom of heaven”

They are not the subjects of but rather the possessors of the kingdom of heaven.

The scripture promises royalty to the Christian;

#### **Revelation 1:6**

*<sup>6</sup> And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

## **2 Timothy 2:12**

*<sup>12</sup> If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

## **Revelation 22:5**

*<sup>5</sup> And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

No more persecution, but now possessors of the kingdom of God.

Not only is it a “Royal Blessing” but:

### **B. It’s a Rich Blessing**

Royalty is not poor.

To possess a kingdom implies riches.

Often the persecuted ones lose their possessions and are put in deep poverty because of persecution.

The homes of the persecuted ones are often stripped of everything of value; they are robbed of their belongings. But in the kingdom of heaven they will be richer than anyone has ever been on earth.

The kingdom of heaven will be a place with great riches.

### **Revelation 21:11-23**

*<sup>11</sup> Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; <sup>12</sup> And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: <sup>13</sup> On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. <sup>16</sup> And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. <sup>17</sup> And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. <sup>18</sup> And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. <sup>19</sup> And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; <sup>20</sup> The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. <sup>21</sup> And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of*

*the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.  
22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

It will also be a place where the riches will never tarnish, or be stolen.

**Matthew 6:19-20**

*19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

Not only is it a “Royal and Rich Blessing” but:

C. It’s a Righteous Blessing

Earthly kingdoms most often are filled with corruption.

One doesn’t have to look hard to see the corruption of many who rule kingdoms today.

From the president down we see corruption everywhere.

In the kingdom of Heaven there will be no corrupted people.

Close:

As we consider the persecution that all who live godly will experience we can do so with these five great truths.

Remember:

1. Persecution Is a Demonstration of Our Identity
2. God Uses Persecution to Refine Us
3. Persecution Gives the Opportunity To Show the Difference that Christ Makes In a Person's Life
4. Those Persecuted Have the Promise of Rewards
5. We That We are In Good Company Because Our Lord Was Persecuted As Well and He Has Promised Never to Leave Us or Forsake Us.

I don't know what you may be facing and what the future holds for any of us but I do know who holds the future.

May we find comfort in these thoughts today.