

# The Persecuted

## *Matthew 5:10-12*

- I. The Forms of Persecution (11)
  - A. Verbal Insults (11)
  - B. Personal Harm (11)
  - C. Lies & False Accusations (11)
  - D. Settled Hatred (Lk. 6:22)
  - E. Social Ostracism (Lk. 6:22)
  - F. Personal Contempt (Lk. 6:22)

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### II. The Reasons for Persecution (10, 11)

#### A. The Wrong Reasons

1. Unattractive, sour personalities
2. Rude, thoughtless words and actions
3. False, pompous spirituality
4. Proud, judgmental attitudes
5. Lazy, irresponsible work habits
6. Unwise, foolish, offensive methods

#### B. The Right Reasons

1. Because of Righteousness (10)
2. Because of Jesus (11)

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### III. The Response to Persecution (12)

#### A. Unbiblical Responses

1. Surprise (1 Pet. 4:12)
2. Bitterness (Lk. 23:34; Acts 7:60)
3. Revenge (cf. Mt. 5:44-45)
4. Discouragement (2 Cor. 4:8-9)

#### B. A Biblical Response

1. Rejoice (12)
2. Be Glad (12)

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### IV. The Blessings of Persecution

A. Assurance (10, 12c)

B. Reward (12b)

1. Our Lord's praise (Mt. 25:21, 23)

2. A greater capacity for service in eternity (Mt. 25:21, 23)