

Prayer Concerns:**Blessed Are the Persecuted**

Matthew 5:7-12 [Page 1501]

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” [7]

“The merciful is he who has a sad heart; he counts others’ misery as his own, and is as sad at their grief as at his own.” [Remigius, 152 BC]

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” [8]

The pure in heart are _____ dedicated to Christ.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” [9]

Peacemakers strive for _____ individuals and God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” [10-12]

How are we to respond to persecution?

1. _____ [Is. 41:10; Ps. 46:1-3; Lk. 12:31-32]
2. _____ the _____ enemy. [Eph. 6:10-12]
3. _____ the _____ of _____ [Eph. 6:10-18]
4. Don’t _____ [Heb. 10:38; Lk. 6:26; Acts 4:29-31; Eph. 6:18-20]
5. Don’t _____ with _____ [Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Pet. 3:9]
6. _____ for the _____ [Mt. 5:43-45a; Lk. 6:27-28]
7. _____ and be _____ [Mt. 5:12]

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. All of us have been affected by Charlie Kirk's assassination. How are you personally dealing with it? [Make sure to make time for the rest of the study.]

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 5:1-12.

1. To be merciful is to have a broken heart for those who are suffering physically, materially, spiritually, etc. How are we to pass on to others the mercy we've received from God?
2. To be pure in heart means one is "clear at the center." Such purity can only come as a gift from God. But remaining pure in heart is also a struggle. How do we keep ourselves clean and uncompromisingly dedicated to Jesus?
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote of the concept of 'cheap grace,' which claims forgiveness for sins without requiring repentance. There is also something called 'cheap peace.' It is an artificial peace we can quickly jump to so we don't have to deal with the root of the conflict. How are we to be true peacemakers?

4. Reread verses 10-12. How can we be blessed through persecution?
5. In the sermon, Dan listed seven responses we're to have when we, or others, are persecuted. In the aftermath of Charlie Kirk's assassination, which ones are most difficult for you to apply? Which are most encouraging and comforting to you?
6. As a Growth Group, take time to pray for Charlie Kirk's wife and children, for the division in our country, and for those being persecuted for righteousness around the world. Pray for the strength to respond as God's Word instructs us to [see sermon outline].

Taking it Home:

1. Of all the Beatitudes, which one do you most desire in your life?