

TRULY HAPPY
Happy Are The Persecuted
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. “Where can I find TRUE happiness?” Virtually everyone has ask this question at some point. The challenge is finding true happiness in a world full of fake. The good news is true happiness is available and can be found in God.

“...Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!”

Psalm 144:15b

Yes, God wants you to be TRULY HAPPY! But God’s plan for true happiness looks very different than you would expect.

B. God reveals His plan for human happiness in what is called the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Join the Capital Family for a journey through this famous Bible passage and find out what Jesus said about true happiness in a world full of fake.

Oct 10	Let’s Get Truly Happy
Oct 17	Happy Are The Humble
Oct 24	Happy Are The Sad
Oct 31	Happy Are The Meek
Nov 7	Happy Are The Hungry
Nov 14	Happy Are The Merciful
Nov 21	Happy Are The Holy
Nov 28	Happy Are The Peacemakers
TODAY	Happy Are The Persecuted

C. **TEXT:** Matthew 5:10-12

- The fake way to happiness is having the right circumstances. It is based on “when and then thinking”.

- The true way to happiness is having the right characteristics.
“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

John 13:17

- God can be seen in your life.

“If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.”

I Peter 4:14

- God can trust you.

“So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.”

Acts 5:41

B. Remember the prophets and others.

“...for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:12b).

“36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.”

Hebrews 11:36-38

“Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.”

Hebrews 13:3

ARE YOU TRULY HAPPY?

“...Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!”

Psalm 144:15b

HOW TO BE PERSECUTED

This Beatitude is unique from the others:

- It is external, not internal.
- It includes three verses, not one.

I. EXPECT PERSECUTION

A. The promise of persecution.

“Blessed are you when they...” (5:11a).

“For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,”
Philippians 1:29

“18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

John 15:18-19

B. The particulars of persecution.

“...revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely” (5:11b).

- “Revile” – to mock.
- “Persecute” – to harass.
- “Say all kinds evil” – to lie.

II. UNDERSTAND PERSECUTION

Two reasons for persecution:

A. Obeying the Word Of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
Matthew 5:11

B. Following the Son Of God

“...for My sake.” (5:11c).

“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.”
John 15:20

“1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”
Acts 9:1-5

III. RESPOND TO PERSECUTION

A. Respond with joy.

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, ...” (Matthew 5:12a).

Rejoice because it means:

- God can greatly reward you.

“17 ...if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
Romans 8:17b-18