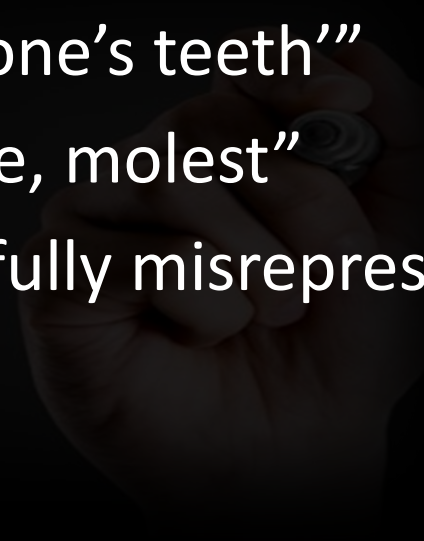


Blessed are the Persecuted

Emptied, That I May Be Filled
Part 6

- Jesus States Some Will...
 - Revile: “Insult, upbraid, ‘showing one’s teeth’”
 - Persecute: “Pursue, harass, trouble, molest”
 - Utter all kinds of evil falsely: “Willfully misrepresent”

WHO
EXPECT



- What if I am not Persecuted?

- God never commands to seek out persecution

- Take advantage of “in season” times
 - Pray for quiet and peaceable lives

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. – I Tim.2:2

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

– II Timothy

4:2

My Place in the Battle



- Christianity requires taking a side
 - Choosing God makes one an enemy of evil

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. – Matthew 6:24

My Place in the Battle

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 5:13-16

My Place in the Battle

- Christianity requires taking a side
 - Life on earth is a test of loyalty to the chosen side





Egypt



Red Sea



Wilderness



Jordan River



Promised Land



Egypt



Red Sea



Wilderness



Jordan River



Promised Land

And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, **testing you to know what was in your heart**, whether you would keep his commandments or not. – Deuteronomy 8:4



Egypt



Sin



Red Sea



Baptism



Wilderness



Christian Life
on Earth



Jordan River



Death



Promised Land



Heaven

My Spiritual Journey



Egypt



Sin



Red Sea



Baptism



Wilderness



Christian Life
on Earth



Jordan River



Death



Promised Land



Heaven

My Time of Testing

My Place in the Battle

- Christianity requires taking a side
 - Beatitudes demonstrate kingdom loyalty

Blessed are the poor in spirit
Blessed are they that mourn
Blessed are the meek
Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst **for Righteousness**

Blessed are the merciful
Blessed are the pure in heart
Blessed are the peacemakers
Blessed are those persecuted
for Righteousness' sake

My Place in the Battle

- Christianity requires taking a side
 - Beatitudes demonstrate kingdom loyalty

Creates Vulnerability to
Persecution

“On My Account”



Blessed are the merciful
Blessed are the pure in heart
Blessed are the peacemakers
Blessed are those persecuted
for **Righteousness**' sake

My Place in the Battle

- Christianity requires taking a side
 - Willingness to face persecution = **maturity**

So flee youthful passions and **pursue** righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. – II Timothy 2:22

The End of the Battle

- Faithful will be in great company
 - “They persecuted the prophets who were before you”

Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— **of whom the world was not worthy**— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. – Hebrews 11:36-38

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven

The End of the Battle

- The promised reward

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. –II Corinthians 4:17-18

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven

The End of the Battle

- The promised reward

If we endure, **we will also reign with him** – II Timothy 2:12a

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven

The End of the Battle

- The promised reward
 - There will be great things in Heaven!
 - Fellowship with God
 - Place of no tears
 - We have no idea what joys await!
 - “Compensation” will far outweigh momentary affliction

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven

The End of the Battle

- The promised reward

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God** than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for **he was looking to the reward**. – Hebrews 11:24-26

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven

Where is Your Citizenship?

