

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

Persecution

Don't be surprised. The world hated me. The world will hate you. The world insulted me. The world will insult you. The world persecuted me. The world will persecute you. The world spoke every evil against me. The world will speak every evil against you. You are in good company with me. You are in good company with my followers that have gone before you. You have been given the privilege to believe in me. You have also been given the privilege to suffer for me. Everyone who desires to live a Godly life will be persecuted. I'm telling you this now so that you will not fall away from me. You will not become discouraged. You will not give up. You will not quit. You will be encouraged. You will be strengthened. You will be lifted-up. You will keep on loving, following and serving me. You will shine brightly for me as a witness in the world. Yes, I will, with all your help.

What will you do? How will you respond when times of hate, insult and persecution come against you? I will remember your words of warning to me. I will remember the kind of life you lived. I will keep my heart and mind and life focused on you. You will be my strength. You will be my encouragement. You will be my support. I will live like you lived. I will do what you did. **What did I do? How did I live?** You kept on loving others even when they hated, insulted and persecuted you. You did not harbor hate. You did not seek revenge. You did not pay back evil with evil. You kept on doing your Father's will. You drew near to your Father as He drew near to you. He sustained you. He helped you. You relied on Him. That is what I will do. I will draw near to you as you draw near to me. I know that you will bring me through every difficulty in life. You will be with me to help me. I will rely on you completely **Yes, I will be with you to help you. Yes, I will bring you through every difficulty in life. Yes, you can and will rely on me every step of your way through life. You will be my witness. Your life will bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name.**

Lord, I know I am in good company with you and your followers when I am insulted, persecuted and falsely spoken of, because of my faith in you. I will be glad because I know that a great reward awaits me in heaven. Help now to be your witness in the world. Amen

Be *Glad*
"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
NIV Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Happy*
"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.
NLT Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Glad*
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
NRSV Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Glad*
Blessed (happy, to be envied, and spiritually prosperous—with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of your outward conditions) are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account. Be glad *and* supremely joyful, for your reward in heaven is great (strong and intense), for in this same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.
AMP Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Glad*
"Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
NASB Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Glad*
"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
ESV Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Exceedingly Glad*
"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
NKJV Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Glad*
"Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.
MSG Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Very Glad*
"When you are reviled and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers—wonderful! Be *happy* about it! Be *very glad!* for a *tremendous reward* awaits you up in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted too.
TLB Matthew 5:11-12

Be *Glad*
"People will insult you and hurt you. They will lie and say all kinds of evil things about you because you follow me. But when they do, you will be happy. Rejoice and be glad, because you have a great reward waiting for you in heaven. People did the same evil things to the prophets who lived before you.
NCV Matthew 5:11-12

Glad

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Be – Matthew 5:11-12

In Context: *Read Matthew 5*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"Blessed | are you | when people | insult you, | persecute you | and | falsely say | all kinds | of evil | against you | because | of me. | Rejoice | and | be glad, | because great | is | your reward | in heaven, | for in | the same way | they persecuted | the prophets | who were | before you. Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I know I am in good company with you and your followers when I am insulted, persecuted and falsely spoken of, because of my faith in you. I will be glad because I know that a great reward awaits me in heaven. Help now to be your witness in the world. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why can you be certain that you will one day be mistreated and persecuted for your faith?

When has someone spoken something falsely against because you are a follower of Christ?

What insults have you experienced because you are a follower of Jesus Christ?

What good company are you in because you have experienced mistreatment and persecution for your faith?

When have you observed evil in the world by how it persecutes followers of Jesus Christ?

Why is it important to not retaliate against mistreatment if you want to be a witness for Christ?

Why can you rejoice and glad through whatever mistreatment you experience as a Christ follower?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Remain joyful while being mistreated for your faith because you know that a great reward awaits you in heaven.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that you can be glad while being mistreated because you know a great reward is waiting for you in heaven.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you are remaining joyful while being mistreated for your faith.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you rejoice and glad if when you are being mistreated as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will rejoice and be glad while being mistreated for my faith because I know a heavenly reward awaits me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can joyfully enduring mistreatment help me to be a witness for you in the world?
