

“Not Applauded, but Faithful”

Matthew 5:10-12

What It Means. . .

Persecution is **mistreatment** we face because we faithfully follow Jesus.

What It Confronts. . .

Jesus confronts our instinct to avoid persecution by hiding that we follow him.

We Feel that Temptation When. . .

- Faithfulness may cost us **belonging**.
- Faithfulness may cost us our **reputation**.

See It in Jesus. . .

Jesus was perfectly righteous, yet endured rejection to save us.

Receive the Promise. . .

Jesus gives his followers reasons to rejoice when opposition comes.

- The world’s **rejection** does not mean God has rejected you.
- **Persecution** does not mean you have taken the wrong road.
- What **faithfulness** costs you now will not be the end of your story.

Reflect then Act. . .

Reflect: Where are you tempted to hide or soften your allegiance to Jesus? Are you most afraid of losing belonging, reputation, or an opportunity?

Act: Read 2 Timothy 1:7-8. Tell one trusted believer where you feel this pressure, and ask them to pray that you would not be ashamed of Christ.