

connect360

Kingdom Power

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

A STUDY OF MATTHEW 5–7

**When You Are Attacked
for All the Right Reasons**

Matthew 5:10-12



August 23, 2026



Bible Study Prayer

**Father, as we turn to the Bible,
What we know not - teach us,
What we have not - give us,
What we are not - make us,
For your Son's sake,
Amen.**



When You Are Attacked for All the Right Reasons - Matthew 5:10-12

The Beatitudes - Review

~Blessed are those who know their own depravity – God opens the Kingdom doors for them.

~Blessed are those who grieve – God's love comforts and sustains them.

~Blessed are those who are unassuming – they will assume ownership of God's creation.

~Blessed are those deeply desire God's goodness – God's goodness shall be theirs.

~Blessed are those who show tender compassion – God does the same for them.

~Blessed are those whose hearts belong only to Jesus – Jesus is their best friend.

~Blessed are those who bring people together – God provides them the unity they need.



When You Are Attacked for All the Right Reasons - Matthew 5:10-12

The Beatitudes

**Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**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.**

Matthew 5:10-12



When You Are Attacked for All the Right Reasons - Matthew 5:10-12

The Beatitudes

What constitutes persecution?

What constitutes religious persecution?

Is there religious persecution in the world today?

Is there religious persecution in America today?

Were the Jews persecuted in Jesus' time?



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The Beatitudes

A Wee Bit of Historical Background **1st Century Jewish Persecution**

Roman Occupation

Military Crackdowns

Pilate, Varian Disaster, Aqueduct Riot, Luke 13

Desecrations of Sacred Places

Burdensome taxes on top of Temple Tax



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The Beatitudes

A Wee Bit of Historical Background **1st Century Jewish Persecution**

Societal Pressure

Ridicule of Religious Practices

monotheism, Sabbath rest, dietary laws, circumcision

Religious/Political Pressure

Sanhedrin control

Ostracization for non-conformity



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Jesus steps into this environment and says:

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Break it down – not in Greek, but in English.

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**Did the Apostles and the Early Church
face persecution?**

How did they respond?



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The Beatitudes

Prayer of the Apostles in the midst of persecution – Acts 4:24b-30

“O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, ‘Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the LORD and against his Messiah.’ In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”



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“After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

“The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people.” (Acts 5:12)

They were arrested by the Sanhedrin, but an angel let them out so they went back into the temple court and preached the “message of life.” (Acts 5:17-21)

“They [The Sanhedrin] called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: ‘Jesus is the Messiah.’” (Acts 5:40-42)



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The Beatitudes

When you are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

1. Rejoice

You have been successful in irritating Satan

Your reward awaits you in heaven

2. Reflect

You're not alone – prophets before, Jesus here on earth, martyrs today

You were promised trouble

3. Pray

Make sure you're in alignment with God

4. Preach

Boldly go and proclaim the truth of the Gospel

Boldly go and minister in the name of Christ

Boldly do the things Satan hates including laughing at his lame attempts to dislodge you from your faith in Jesus.



Next Week!

Agape
Bible
Life
Study

Sunday
5th Social
August 30

August 30, 2026

