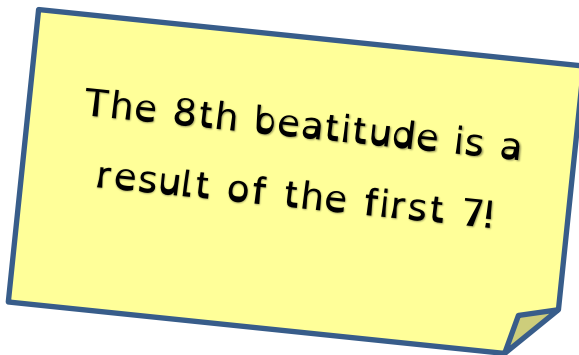


“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”

Matthew 5:11



“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”

Matthew 5:10-11

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.”

John 3:17-20

Excerpt from Momentum by Colin Smith:

"If our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world have their goods and livelihoods taken by force, we can choose to release ours in sacrificial giving.

If other believers are in prison and we are free, we can use our freedom to extend ourselves with joy and without complaint in the work of Christ's kingdom.

If other Christians are exhausted with the pains of beatings and torture, we can surely press through the tiredness and discouragement we often feel and find renewed strength in Christ to continue serving Him."

Matthew 5:3-11

3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 *Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

5 *Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

7 *Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

8 *Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

9 *Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

11 *'Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of me.'*

For Discussion:

1. Read John 15:18, 21-24. What is Jesus saying to you through this passage?
2. Is there a time you faced ridicule, rejection, or persecution and you responded well? Describe it.
3. Is there a time you face ridicule, rejection, or persecution and you did not respond well? Describe it.
4. Which of the beatitudes has had the greatest impact on you?