

**June 16, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

***Mt. 5:10-12 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. 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)***

The final 'beautiful attitude' reminds us of those who are persecuted because of their walk with the LORD. In summation, the character traits that are blessed by Jesus are usually not valued by the modern culture we live in. They tend to focus on the three 'B's': beauty, brains and bucks. What we forfeit because of our walk in Him will be blessed by the only One that truly matters. His blessings are eternal and perfect. The blessings of this world are shallow, temporary and fleeting. They will never last.

And this world will not like what they see in us because it reminds them of a Holy God. No one likes to see themselves like they really are. So, they will lash out at those who represent the godliness of the LORD and will even insult, persecute and lie about you. What the evil one has done is blind them to what really matters. There are really only two kinds of people: those that are lost and those that are not. The latter are the ones who have recognized their lost state and turned to the One Who can save them. And because of that Jesus would later tell His disciples this in ***Mt. 10:22 You will be hated by everyone because of Me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. (NIV)*** This means because they are saved. To live in the real and abundant life of the LORD, we will endure the insults, the persecution and the slander of this world, but it is only temporary. His rewards will be eternal!

**Dear LORD, thank You that we are blessed when it seems that this world is cursing us. We find our hope, our joy and our life in You and You alone. You are greater than anything this world could afford. We praise You. In Jesus Name, Amen**