

Strength for the Fight
Matthew 5:9 – 12
The Laurel Center
February 12, 2016

Main Idea: Weather in peace or persecution God blesses those who you stand strong in trials.

Introduction

As we look at the third set of Beatitudes in the sermon on the mount we concentrate on persecution and trials that we will face as Christians. Jesus expects for us to be approved as we suffer through these trials. Persecution is a dangerous and real threat to us right now in these last days. But Jesus calls us to stand strong in the midst of persecution not with our own strength but with his strength in us. Let's take a look at the spinal triad of Beatitudes.

Matthew 5:9

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- I.** We make peace in a world at war.
 - A Jesus is looking for peacemakers.
 - B God identifies with peacemakers.

Matthew 5:10

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

- II.** We stand strong when persecuted.
 - A Persecution tests our resolve.
 - B God blesses the persecuted.

Matthew 5:11-12

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

- III.** We rejoice when persecuted for Jesus.
 - A Persecution comes in many forms.
 - B We stand with the righteous when persecuted.

Conclusion

Peace and strength are required for the fight in this world. We need strength to bring peace in a world at war. Peace is the harder path to take and requires more strength than the default desire for war. Persecution calls us to stand strong for Jesus and stand in the gap. It also requires us to learn how to rejoice in the Lord because he is using persecution to our benefit in the end.