WEEK #8: Blessed Are the Persecuted

> *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*
> *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
> *Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.*
> *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*
> *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
> *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*
> *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*
> *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs."*
>
> Matthew 5:3-10 (CSB)

> *"You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me."*
>
> Matthew 5:11 (CSB)

What Jesus Didn't Say:

- **Blessed are those who are persecuted because they are _____.**
- **Blessed are those who are persecuted because they are _____.**
- **Blessed are those who are persecuted because they are _____.**

What Jesus Did Say:

- **Blessed are those who are persecuted because they are _____.**

CSB (Christian Standard Bible) ESV (English Standard Version)

The Bottom Line:

- **The Good Life does not assure you of _____;**
the Good Life assures you of a _____.

> *He was despised and rejected by men,*
> *a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;*
> *and as one from whom men hide their faces*
> *he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*
>
> Isaiah 53:3 (ESV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus says that we are blessed when we are insulted, persecuted, and falsely accused because of Him. Is it hard for you to view that as a blessing? Why or why not?

2. Have you ever felt that you have been persecuted because of your faith? What did that experience feel like for you?

3. Jesus lived a life of kindness and compassion, but He was hated by many people. Is that encouraging or discouraging to you?

Recommended Resources:

- *The Good Life*, by Dr. Derwin L. Gray
- *Letters and Papers from Prison*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *Open Doors International*, at www.opendoorsusa.org

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