

# KINGDOM LIFE

OUTRAGEOUS HOPE  
FOR ORDINARY LIFE

A WORSHIP SERIES THROUGH  
JESUS' SERMON ON THE MOUNT





## Matthew 5:1-9

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.


<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

**<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

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





# The Beatitudes

Beatitudes 1-4	Empty ("poor") Hands	Dirty ("mourning") Hands	Open ("meek") Hands	Outstretched ("hungry") Hands
	We come to God with our infinite need and he satisfies us with His Infinite Love			
Beatitudes 5-7	Merciful	Pure	Peacemaking	
	Being fully satisfied, we are able to be in honest loving relationships with God and each other			
Beatitude 8	Persecuted			
	Being fully satisfied and propelled to sacrificially love outward will be counter-cultural and invite conflict.			





Brunson Clip



“Blessed are those who are persecuted **for righteousness’ sake**...when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely **on my account**.

“For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Followers of Jesus by definition belong and cling to a different King and Kingdom, which contradicts and threatens the reign of all other kings.

“For righteousness’ sake”  
“on my account”

...when you won’t “cut corners”.  
...when you choose love over easy-pleasure.  
...when you forgive instead of retaliate.  
...when you don’t agree with the “party line”.





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John 8:3-6

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst <sup>4</sup> they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

If Jesus said to stone her, it would have been treason against Rome.

If Jesus said to have mercy, it would have been heretical to traditional Jews.





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## Why There is Persecution

7 Universal Moral Codes based on over 600 cultural records from 60 societies around the world:

- 1) *Helping family*
- 2) *Helping your group*
- 3) *Reciprocating*
- 4) *Being brave*
- 5) *Respecting superiors*
- 6) *Dividing disputed resources (fairness)*
- 7) *Respecting prior possession (property rights)*





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Hebrews 11:35-38

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.

<sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword.

They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Inside and Outside the Church

Tolerate → Belittle → Assault

**Outside**

“Christians are intolerant and believe in fairy tales”

**Inside**

“Christians who \_\_\_\_\_ probably aren’t even saved.”

What Persecution Looks Like





# Silicon Valley Clip



<sup>10b</sup> For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven...<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## How We Respond

**Retaliate**

Us vs. Them

Righteous Indignation





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## How We Respond

### Retaliate

Us vs. Them

Righteous Indignation

### Retreat

I don't want to suffer consequences (even simple embarrassment) so I hide my faith...

or water it down so it fits culture's values.





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### Rejoice

Hold on to the love and value we have in the Kingdom of Heaven.

This is so difficult because we want to be valued in this world.





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Why We Can Rejoice

We end the same way we started:  
“For Theirs **IS** the Kingdom of Heaven”  
“For your reward is great in Heaven”





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Philippians 1:12

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Persecution Reveals Jesus

*"I only believe in histories told by witnesses who would have had their throat slit." - Blaise Pascal*





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## Why We Can Rejoice

### Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

We are Not Alone

Jesus Endured Perfectly

Jesus Reigns Right Now

