



PART 9: BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

INTRODUCTION

What if the underlying spiritual issue facing the Church today is that we've failed to take Jesus seriously enough? What if much of the culture's judgment of Christians isn't the result of Christians obeying Jesus, but the result of Christians ignoring him? What could look differently in culture, and in our lives, if we lived like Jesus was serious?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:10-12

Daniel 3:12, 16-18, 24-27

Acts 5:41-42

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Dr. John Stott said, "persecution is simply the clash between two irroncilable value-systems." What are some of the irreconcilable values between the Kingdom of God and the world?
2. Describe a time when you've suffered persecution as a direct result of living out Kingdom values.
3. Read Daniel 3:16-18. Our obedience to God should not be contingent upon Him doing for us what we want, the way we want, in the time frame we want. How would you honestly describe your level of unconditional obedience to God on a daily basis?
4. What circumstance are you currently experiencing that you can't predict the outcome? At what level are you trusting God in the middle of this circumstance?
5. Read Daniel 3:26-27. Pastor Will taught that you can go through a dark situation without going dark spiritually. Describe a time when this has seemed impossible for you.
6. Where is your faith being tested today?
7. The way we can trust God completely when our faith is being tested is to train our mind to know the truth. What truth or truths from God's word do you need to dwell on right now?

MOVING FORWARD

Application Prayer: Jesus, I will stand with you and trust you regardless of the outcome of my trial. I rejoice in your power and presence to see me through!