

Hated for Christ Matt 5:10-12

Q: What does it mean for righteousness' sake? Jesus is our righteousness. (2 Cor 5:21) We can only be persecuted for righteousness if we are walking as Jesus walked. This message as with all the other beatitudes is for Christians only.

Q: Persecuted for Christ's sake, what does that mean? First persecute means to hunt down to get rid of. It's an active thing. The World hates the light and rages at it. John 3:18-21 No unsaved person wants to hear from God or about the things of God unless He's drawing them. It's not a topic of conversation for a reason.

Q: Say all kinds of evil against you, how so? Misrepresented. Much of the world enjoys being ignorant of God. Their ignorance helps them justify their hatred and stay in the dark

Q: Can we be hated as Christians but not for Christ's sake?

When we are disobedient and do something He hasn't asked or do it with the wrong attitude we can be hated, but it's not for His sake. Being disobedient and doing something "Christian" does not mean we are truly doing God's will. Some Christians have a martyr complex but the reality is they may only be being persecuted for being disobedient and doing things out of their own heart or with a poor heart.

Q: How can we rejoice in our suffering this vehement response?

1. They hated Jesus and He was crucified for who He was. If we are truly obedient we receive reward in being Christlike
2. Suffering produces perseverance and Christ-likeness. Romans 5:1-5, 1 Peter 2:18-25, 3:13-17
3. Rev Ch 2 & 3 "him who overcomes" all rewards to all who persevere are given to those who conquer through it all

Q: Is it possible to not suffer as a Christian? If we are living as we should be? No. (2 Tim 3:12) However, Yes we can avoid much suffering if we are cowards.