

HOW CAN WE KNOW IF WE ARE SAVED?

Been persecuted for righteousness sake lately?

Matthew 5:10-12

- I. **REMEMBER** the previous pronouncements of blessing reveal the righteous lives of the truly saved (5:3-9)

- II. **KNOW THE TRULY BLESSED (SAVED) WILL HAVE BEEN** (Perf. tense) **PERSECUTED** because of Christ's righteousness lived out (5:10a)
 - A. The meaning of persecution (5:10a & various passages)

 - B. The reality of persecution for the true believer (5:10a, 11-12 & various passages)

 - C. The reason for persecution: For righteousness sake, on account of Christ (5:10a, 11-12 & various passages)

- III. **UNDERSTAND WHY THE PERSECUTED ARE BLESSED:** Because this type of persecution reveals they are (pres tense) of the kingdom of heaven (10b)

- IV. **BE ENCOURAGED BY A PERSONAL APPLICATION AND COMMAND FOR TRUE BELIEVERS (THE BLESSED) concerning what to do when persecution happens (5:11-12)**
 - A. A personal reminder: You are blessed when it happens because of Christ (5:11)

 - B. Two commands: **Rejoice and leap for joy** (5:12a)

 - C. Two reasons why we are to exceedingly rejoice (5:12b).
 1. **Great heavenly reward**

 2. You're right on track, the prophets were persecuted also