



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

April 23 and 30

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:10-12

"Blessed are those who are persecuted"

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Have you ever been challenged or criticised because of your Christian faith? Share

Do you feel that 'the squeeze' is on for Christian's from society at the moment?
In what ways?

Read

- Mark 13:12-13
- John 15:18
- Matthew 10:16-18
- Matthew 10: 22-23

Discuss: "The criticism Christian's get these days is because of high profile Christian's in high profile churches being caught behaving badly"

How do the phrases 'because of righteousness' and 'because of me' clarify the discussion question above?

Discuss: "When Christians stand for traditional values and beliefs in a rapidly changing society, where definitions, boundaries and behaviours are constantly shifting, conflict and criticism is inevitable"

Do you think that the vocal minority have hijacked the majority in order to influence society?
Share some of your observations.

Over the centuries, Christians have suffered gruesome and barbaric torture and death for their faith on a scale of one to 10. How difficult do you think it is for Christians in Australia at the moment?

1....2...3....4...5...6....7....8...9....10

In what ways might we be called 'blessed' when we are being persecuted?

Jesus staggering instruction to 'rejoice and be glad' when being persecuted is a big challenge. What reason does he give for this counterintuitive response?

How much is this promise a motivator in your everyday life?

How does James 1:2-4 explain another layer of benefit from suffering?