

# The Sermon on the Mount

## *Ethics for the Coming Kingdom*

Good News Baptist Church  
AM Message

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### THE HOLY HARASSED?

Matthew 5:10-12

*God wants believers to be persecuted for the right reason and to maintain the right focus.*

Persecution needs to be:

1. A normal expectation for following the righteous causes of Christ (5:10; 2 Timothy 3:12; Philippians 1:20).

- Some will “revile you”
- Some will “persecute you”
- Some will say “all manner of evil against you falsely”

➤ *Sweetly expect harassment for your faith. Make sure you are persecuted for the Gospel for love of Christ and not for being weird, brash, or eccentric.*

2. For the right person-only Jesus are we to worship in this suffering (5:10; 10:22; John 15:18-21; 16:1-4).

- “For my name’s sake”

➤ *We are to make sure we suffer for good and not for our sin. If we are to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We will need to make sure we are not being fanatical or a nuisance. The love of Christ and the Gospel must be what compels and motivates us more than good things and causes. Jesus must be our first love.*

3. Lived with a heart fixed on rejoicing in the believer's hope to come (5:10, 12; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

- “Blessed” (5:10-11)
- “For theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (5:3,10)
- “Great reward” (v. 12; Philippians 3:20-21)
- Identifies with us “the prophets” before us (5:12)

- *Why trade eternal rewards from our Savior for the temporal approval, compromises, and kickbacks of those who are alienated and enemies of God (Ephesians 2)?*
- *We need to be joyfully content to be approved by God alone. Beware of the bragging rights that you suffered for Jesus. When we brag God says that your bragging will be your only reward because you just negated His desire to reward you in heaven.*
- *Pride will often pit us against people. We need to witness with earnest to all those around us. Gossiping about how badly we have been hurt harms our witness and reward.*