

MARINERS CHURCH

Series: Radical Living Message: Bring on the Insults

2.22-23.2020

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." –Jesus, Matthew 5:10 (NIV)

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me." –Jesus, Matthew 5:11 (NIV)

Why is there persecution?

#1 Because you are living a life that's not going with the flow.

#2 Because of Jesus.

"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. John 15:18 (NLT)

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me." –Jesus, Matthew 5:11 (NIV)

When you feel persecuted...

1. Make sure it's not about you!

2. Look to experience the presence of God.

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." –Jesus, John 16:33b (NIV)

3. Realize you're in good company.

"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." –Jesus, Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

"If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." –Jesus, John 15:20 (NIV)



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4. Recognize it is the expected result of introducing others to Jesus.

I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved... 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NIV)

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies.

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:8-11, 16-18 (NLT)

For my LifeGroup and my accountability time...

Grow On Purpose Opener: (Without judgement) Talk about "consistency" (attendance/engagement) and how it helps to build community.

Most of us in America can't claim we are facing death for our faith, but share what forms of persecution you might have felt.

Read 2 Corinthians 4.

Talk about the determination and what that must take.

Risk vs Reward is a business principle, but how does it play out in one's decision to 'be all in' in following Jesus.

What forces are driving the persecution, risk, and danger?

How can your group work to support each other in becoming the type of peacemakers that might result in forms of persecutions?

Spend some time praying for each other, not to be persecuted, but to live such a life that might result in persecution.

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