

Persecution
Matthew 5:11–12

1. Expect Persecution (Matthew 5:11)

2 Timothy 3:12, “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

1 Peter 4:15–16, “If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief... However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”

2. Embrace Persecution (Matthew 5:12)

Philippians 3:10, “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

Romans 5:3–4, “We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Romans 8:18, “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

To Go

1. Visit persecution.com and hear stories of persecuted Christians around the world (Matthew 5:11–12).
2. Schedule prayer for persecuted Christians into your calendar (Hebrews 13:13).
3. Share your faith with one person this week (Matthew 5:13–16).

At Home Study Guide

For the week February 5, 2017

“Persecution” • Matthew 5:11–12

Quick Review

This week we continue our Red Letters sermon series from Matthew 5-7. This is Jesus’ longest recorded sermon in the New Testament. We encourage you to read Matthew 5-7 through at least once each week during our series. Ask God to show you ways you can reflect His heart for the world during this new season. In your time with the Lord and with your Growth Group, ask and answer these questions to help guide you in responding to Jesus’ message from Matthew 5-7.

Looking back at the outline or your notes, what stood out to you most from the message on Sunday?

Take a few minutes and read slowly through Matthew 5:1-12. What do you notice about the character of God from this passage?

What have you learned about yourself from the sermon and reading of the text?

What is your next step of obedience in light of what you read in the text, heard in the message, and discussed as a group?