

# The JESUS Series

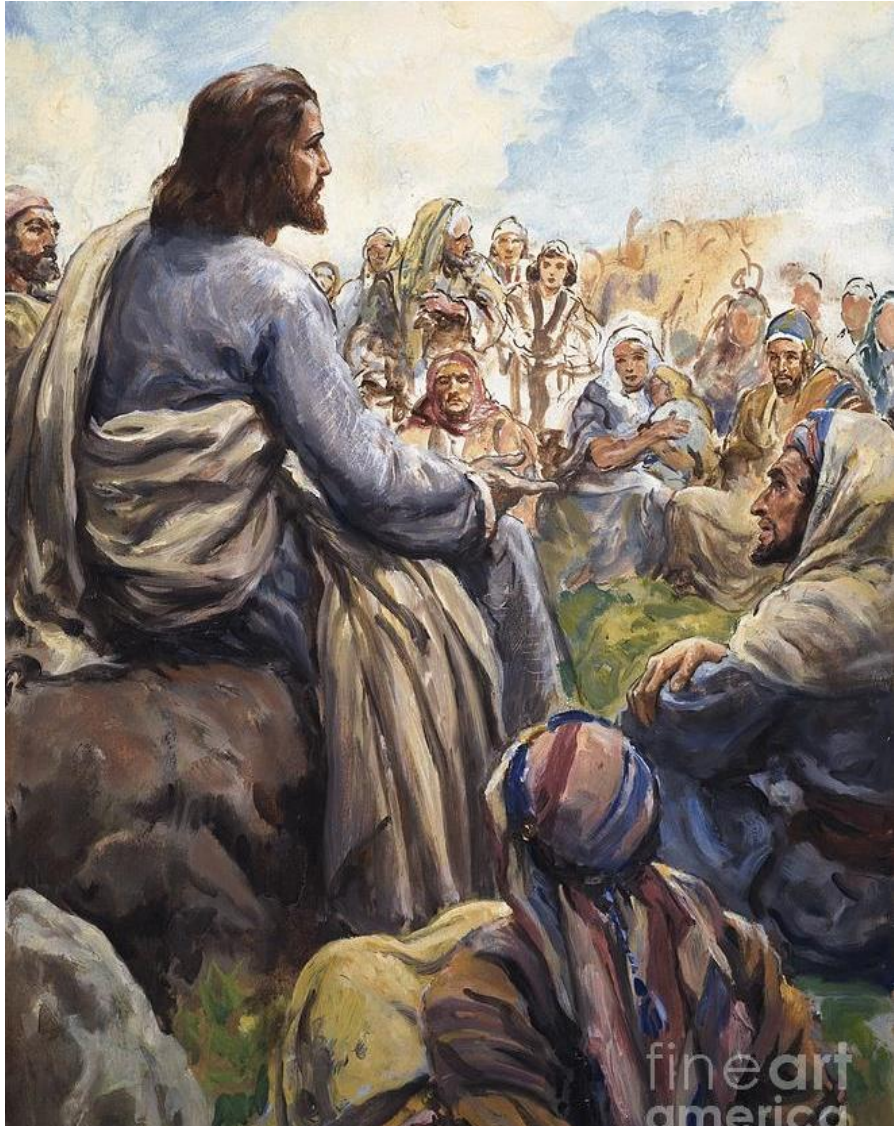
Pt 9 – The Sermon

# Introduction...

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- The sermon on the mount is essentially the heart of Jesus teachings.
- They represent His Heart and manifesto
- In other words, this is how a true Believer behaves and lives.
- The contents of the sermon are as relevant today as they were when He first uttered them





# Introduction...

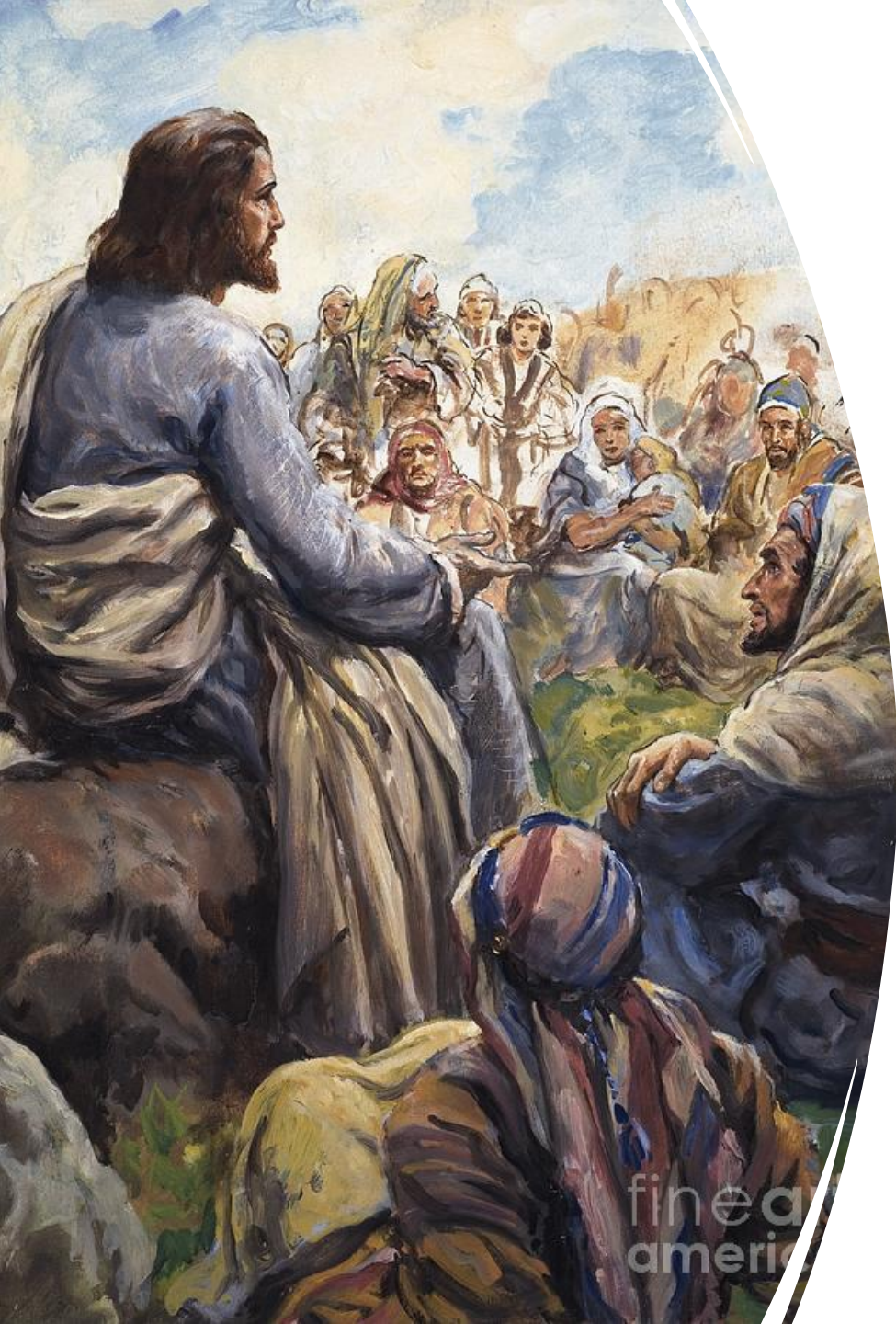
- The first portion of the Sermon on the Mount is known as the Beatitudes, which means
- “The Blessings” but can also be understood as giving the believer his
- “be — attitudes”
- — the attitudes he should “be.”
- In the Beatitudes, Jesus sets forth both the *nature* and the *aspirations* of citizens of His kingdom.

# Introduction...

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- They *have* and are *learning* these character traits.
- *All* of these character traits are marks and goals of *all* Christians.
- It is not as if we can major in one to the exclusion of others, as is the case with spiritual gifts.
- There is no escape from our responsibility to desire every one of these spiritual attributes.
- If you meet someone who claims to be a Christian but displays and desires none of these traits, you may rightly wonder about their salvation, because they do not have the character of kingdom citizens.
- But if they claim to have mastered these attributes, you may question their honesty.





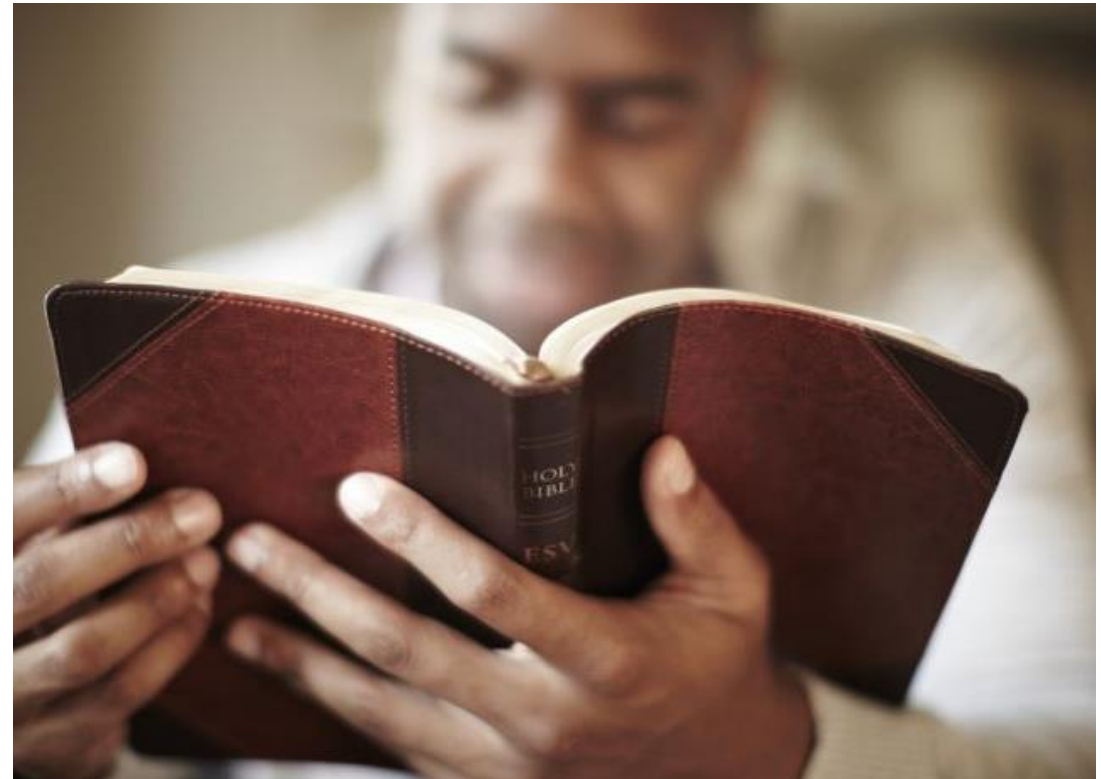
# Introduction...

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- <sup>3</sup> *“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- <sup>4</sup> *Blessed are those who mourn,  
For they shall be comforted.*
- <sup>5</sup> *Blessed are the meek,  
For they shall inherit the [\[a\]](#)earth.*

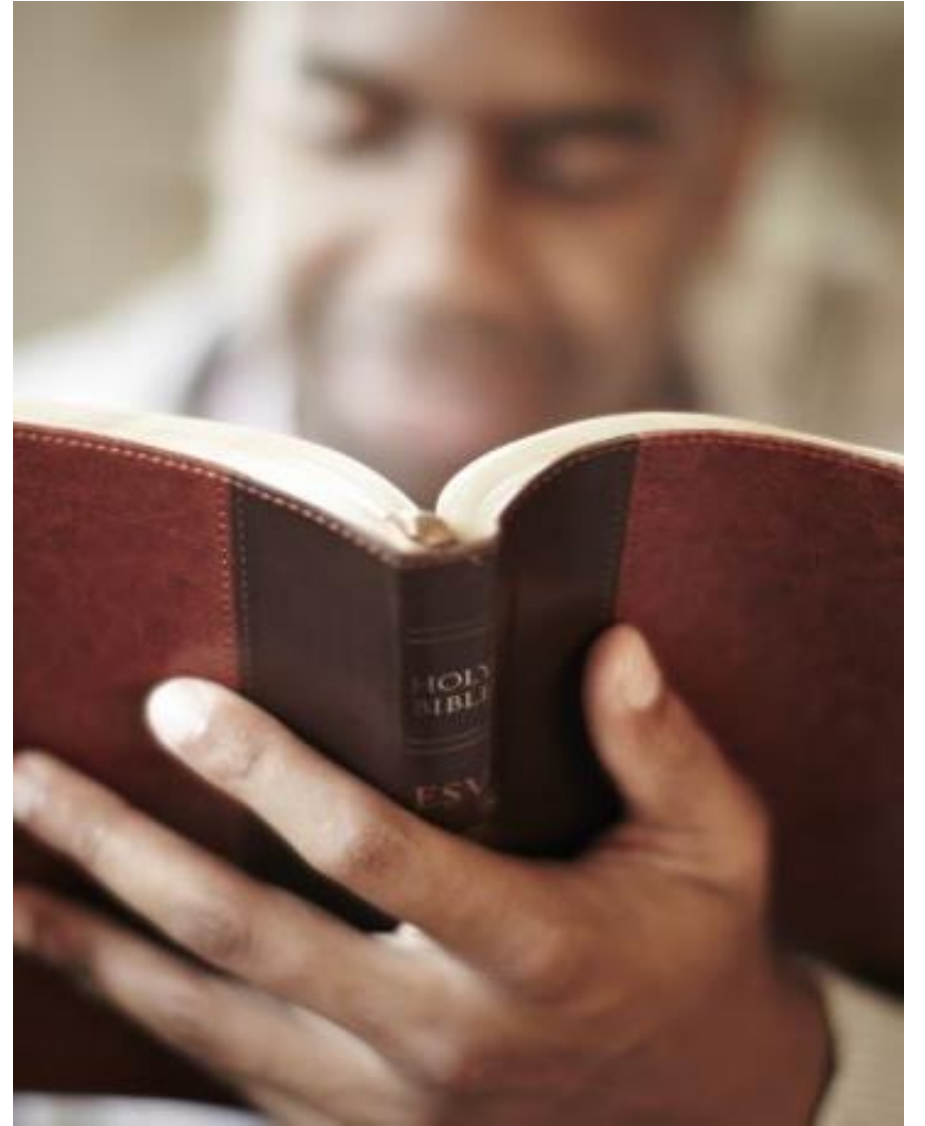
# Hunger and....

- **Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.**
- There are two types of thirst/hunger
- The first deals with SIN - like Jesus described to the Woman by the well. The water I give him, he will NOT thirst again.
- Then there is the second hunger which David describes in his famous psalm. As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my heart longs for thee
- This thirst or hunger is for God and His Presence. If you are around 'Christians' for a week or even a day, and you don't see them 'long' for God's Presence; something is amiss
- In fact this is a litmus test for you to discern between a Churchgoer and a truly saved soul.



# ..and Thirst

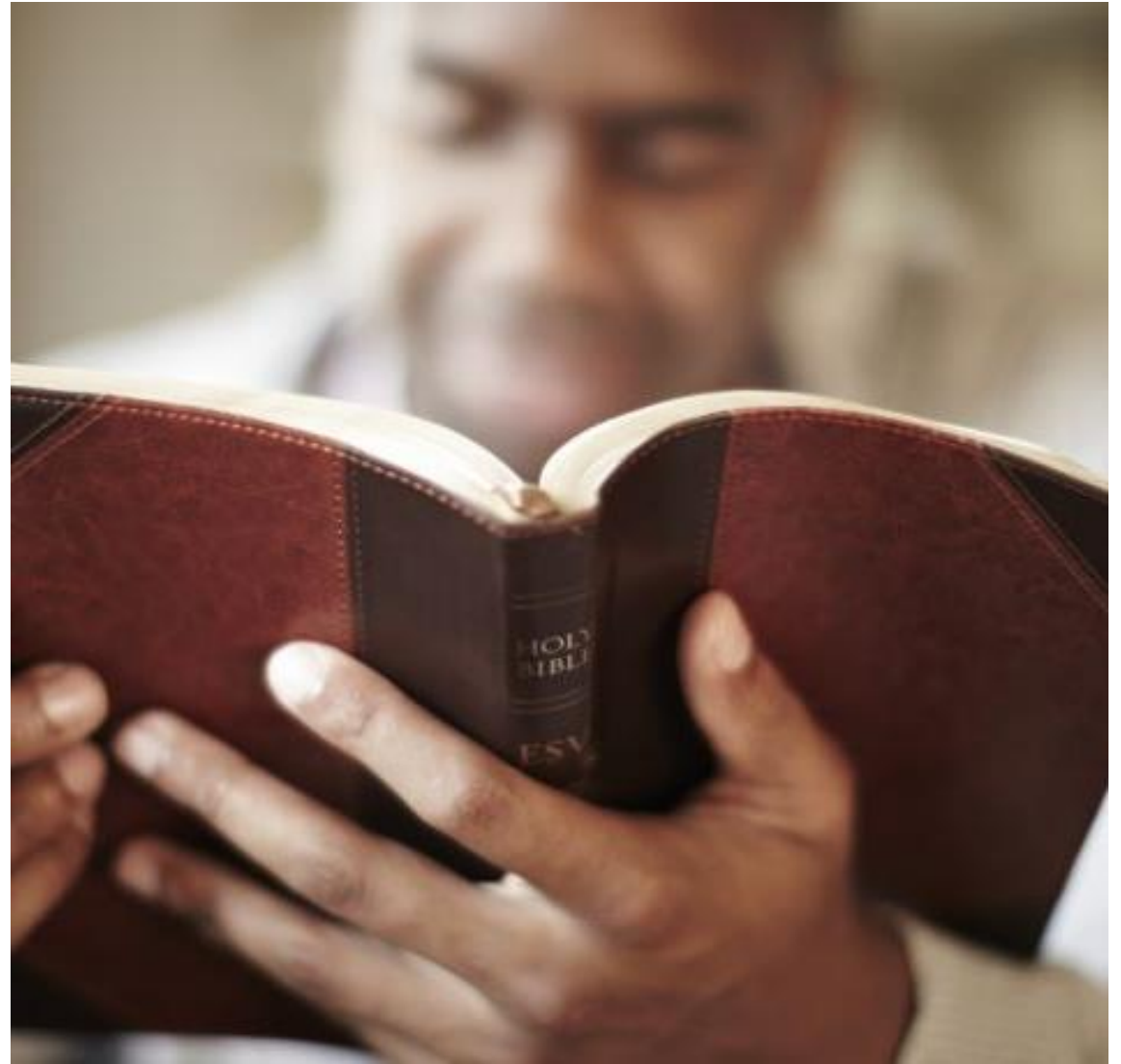
- Just watch out for it...
- You can tell when a person longs for God and when they don't.
- Now there are seasons in a person's life when the distractions of life and trials cause them to wander away from the Lord.
- But even then, these 'prodigal souls' have Luke 15:17 moments when they long for God's Presence (House)
- Judge not Matthew 7:1
- 1 Corinthians 4:5



# For...

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- It can be very difficult to discern or judge another soul but the Bible does say Judge (or discern) things 1 Cor 2:15
- There's the spiritual man – born again
- There's the natural man - Unsaved soul
- There's the infant man – saved but growing
- There's the fleshy man – saved but carnal
- You need to be able to discern between all three!!





# Blessed...

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- **Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**
- a. **Blessed are the merciful:** When this beatitude addresses those who will show mercy, it speaks to those who have already received mercy.
- It is mercy to be emptied of your pride and brought to poverty of spirit.
- It is mercy to be brought to mourning over your spiritual condition.
- It is mercy to receive the grace of meekness and to become gentle.
- It is mercy to be made hungry and thirsty after righteousness.
- Therefore, this one who is expected to show mercy is one who has already received it.





# The Merciful....

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- The merciful one will show it to those who are weaker and poorer.
- The merciful one will always look for those who weep and mourn.
- The merciful one will be forgiving to others, and always looking to restore broken relationships.
- The merciful one will be merciful to the character of other people, and choose to think the best of them whenever possible.
- The merciful one will not expect too much from others.
- The merciful one will be compassionate to those who are outwardly sinful.
- The merciful one will have a care for the souls of all men.

## ...Obtain Mercy

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- **For they shall obtain mercy:** If you want mercy from others — especially God —
- then you should take care to be **merciful** to others.
- Some people wonder why God showed such remarkable mercy to King David, especially in the terrible ways in which he sinned
- . One reason God gave him such mercy was because David was notably merciful to King Saul, and on several occasions was kind to a very unworthy Saul.
- In David, the **merciful** obtained **mercy**.
- David Guzik



# Pure...

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- **Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**
- a. **Blessed are the pure in heart:** In the ancient Greek, the phrase **pure of heart** has the idea of straightness, honesty, and clarity.
- There can be two ideas connected to this. One is of inner moral purity as opposed to the image of purity or ceremonial purity.
- The other idea is of a single, undivided heart — those who are utterly sincere and not divided in their devotion and commitment to God.



# ...In Heart

- “Christ was dealing with men’s spirits, with their inner and spiritual nature.
- He did this more or less in all the Beatitudes, and this one strikes the very center of the target
- as he says, not ‘Blessed are the pure in language, or the pure in action,’ much less ‘Blessed are the pure in ceremonies, or in raiment, or in food;’
- but ‘Blessed are the pure *in heart.*’”  
(Spurgeon)



# See God...

- **For they shall see God:**
- In this, the **pure of heart** receive the most wonderful reward.
- They shall enjoy greater intimacy with God than they could have imagined.
- The polluting sins of covetousness, oppression, lust, and chosen deception have a definite *blinding* effect upon a person;
- and the one **pure of heart** is freer from these pollutions.



# Peacemakers...

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- **Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**
- **Blessed are the peacemakers:** This does not describe those who *live* in peace, but those who actually bring about peace
- ,overcoming evil with good. One way we accomplish this is through spreading the gospel,
- because God has entrusted to us the *ministry of reconciliation* ([2 Corinthians 5:18](#)).
- In evangelism we make peace between man and the God whom they have rejected and offended.



# Called...

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- **For they shall be called sons of God:**
- The reward of **peacemakers** is that they are recognized as true children of God.
- They share His passion for peace and reconciliation, the breaking down of walls between people.
- He is blessed by God; though the peacemaker may be ill-treated by man,
- he is blessed by God. He is blessed to be among the children of God, adopted into His family, surrounded by brothers and sisters through the ages.

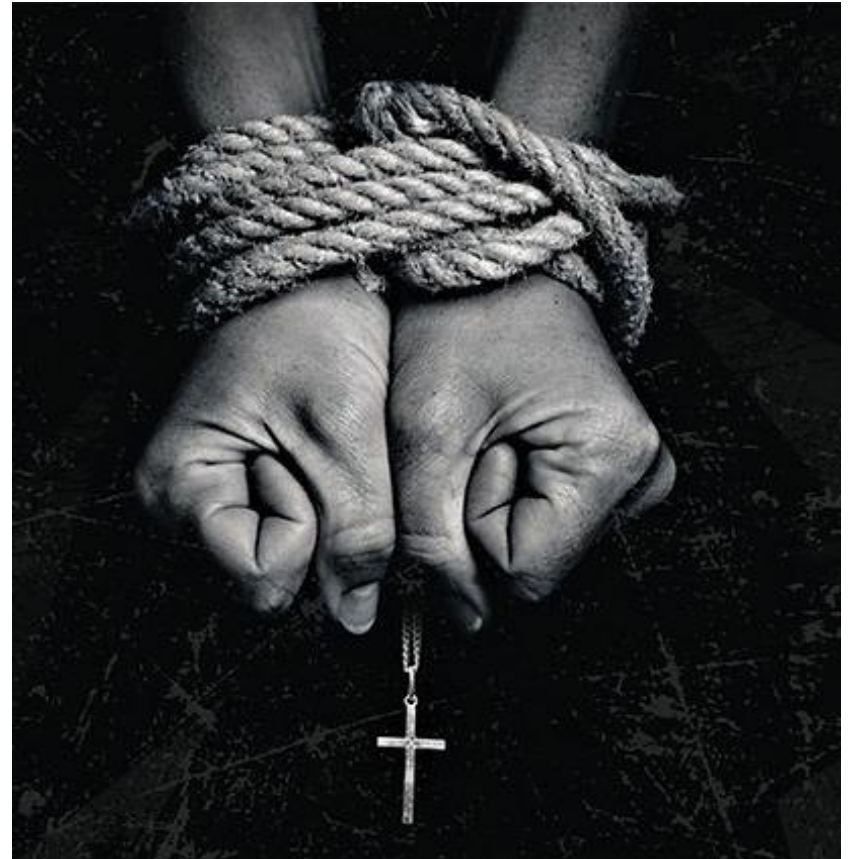




# Persecuted....

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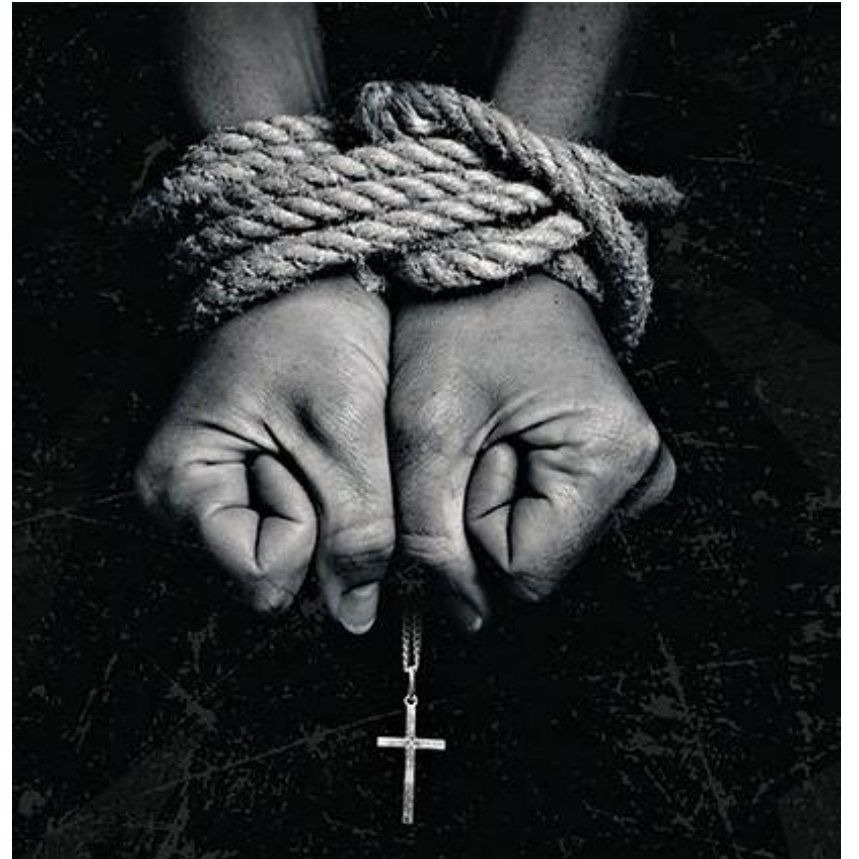
- **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
- Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted:
- These blessed ones are persecuted for righteousness' sake and for Jesus' sake (for My sake), not for their own stupidity or fanaticism.



# Persecuted...

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- The character traits described in the Beatitudes are not valued by our modern culture.
- We don't recognize or give awards to the "Most Pure in Heart" or "Most Poor in Spirit."
- Though our culture doesn't think much of these character traits, they do describe the character of the citizens of God's kingdom.
- "So the King adds an eighth beatitude, and that a double one, for those who because of their loyalty endure suffering." (Morgan)



# Persecuted...

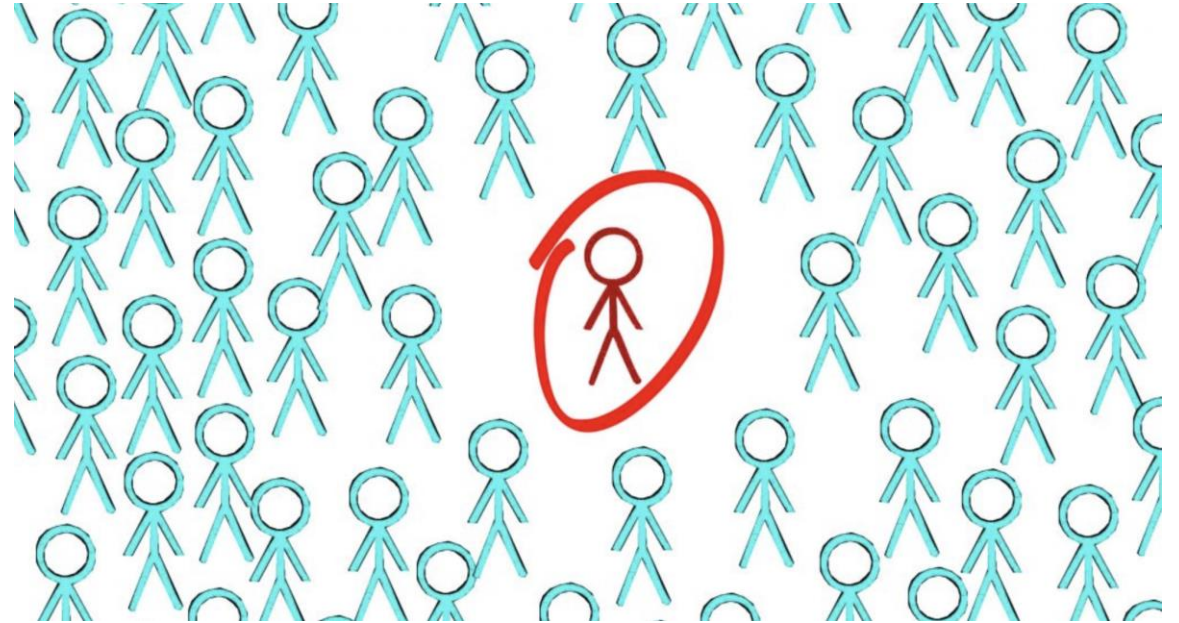
- **Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake:**
- Jesus brings insults and spoken malice into the sphere of persecution.
- We cannot limit our idea of persecution to only physical opposition or torture.
- i. In Matthew 5:10 they are persecuted for righteousness' sake;
- in Matthew 5:11 they are persecuted for the sake of Jesus.
- This shows that Jesus expected that their righteous lives would be lived after His example, and in honor to Him.



# Persecuted...

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- Yet the world persecutes these good people because the values and character expressed in these Beatitudes are so opposite to the world's manner of thinking.
- Our persecution may not be much compared to others, but if *no one* speaks evil of you, are these Beatitudes traits of your life?





Reflection ...

Reflection....