

RUSSELL SANDERS

3-11-2024

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED

Bible verses are often taken out of context and misapplied to mean something other than what the scripture intended. To give an example, I will use two verses on persecution from the Beatitudes in Matthew 5.

Matthew 5:10, *"blessed are they which are persecuted..."*

Matthew 5:11, *"Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil [lies] against you..."*

If those words are to be taken only as written here, it could be interpreted that all people worldwide who are persecuted or downtrodden will be blessed regardless of any reason. That might include non-believers, atheists, false religious groups, or anybody, regardless of their beliefs. It could even mean Christians that make stupid mistakes or statements would be blessed, even if they brought it upon themselves.

However, that is not what the above scriptures are saying if you read it in context. A more complete reading of the entire verse reveals the true meaning.

Matthew 5:10 as above continues with *"persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 5:11 continues with *"...for my sake [Jesus]."*

The blessings Jesus speaks of are specifically given to those who take a stand for Jesus and His righteousness, not for just persecutions in general. What blessing are we then promised? We are promised our place to be secured in the kingdom of heaven [verse 10].

Jesus told us that we must expect persecution as his followers. He will strengthen us to endure these persecutions, lies against us, backbitings, even beatings that come against us. He will reward us as we stand faithful to him through all circumstances.

Never let down your trust upon Him. He alone is faithful to uphold you and reward his own.