

RUSSELL SANDERS

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PERSECUTION AND BETRAYAL

The "Beatitudes" given by Jesus are found in Matthew 5:3-12. The very last two of the "blessed" attributes are found in verses 10 and 11.

Verse 10 says, ***"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (to inherit)."***

Verse 11 says, ***"Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil (lies) against you falsely for my (names') sake."***

In John 15:18 Jesus further says, ***"If the world hate you, ye know that it (they) hated me before it (they) hated you."*** He goes on to say that if you were conformed to those of the world they would love (accept) you because you are like them.

The word says elsewhere that there comes a time of persecution when even your own children would turn you in to the government because of your faith.

We have it pretty safe and easy here in America, unlike some countries where this has already been happening. There is coming a time when it will be here also.

In Matthew 5:12 Jesus gives us a blessed promise. He said, ***"Rejoice and be exceeding glad (for this trouble) for great is your reward in heaven. For so (also) persecuted they the prophets which were before you."***

The persecution, the lies against you, the betrayals by friends and family are indications that the light of Christ is shining through you. Satan cannot stand that light, so he motivates mankind to come against you. Be encouraged as it is a sign that you are surely heaven bound to receive your reward.

Never give up. Keep the faith. Do not focus on the surrounding circumstances. Press on to the high calling of faith on Jesus.