# Sacred Delights

## Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted Because of Righteousness

Sunday, June 30, 2024

**Matthew 11:2-11 NIV**

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he
sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should
we expect someone else?"

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The
blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the
poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."7 As
John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about
John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by
the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine
clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then
what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a
prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my
messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11 Truly I
tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater
than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is
greater than he.

1. **Dungeon of Doubt.**

2. **Jesus is Not Silent.**

3. ***GREAT* is Your Reward in Heaven!**

**Conclusion:** May we enter the narrow gate and find life everlasting in Christ. May we stand firm in our faith, knowing even when others come against us, our God is always for us, always in motion, and working all things for good and to the glory of His great name! Rejoice and be glad for great is our reward in Heaven!

## LIFE GROUP LESSON

## Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted

Week of June 30– July 6, 2024

**Ice Breaker:** What happens when you choose peace over retaliation?

**Read Matthew 11: 2-11**

1. Where was John when he asked his question? (v.2)
2. What did he ask Jesus? (v.3)
3. Why would John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, ask this question?
4. What questions or thoughts were likely going through John's mind?
5. Have you asked similar question of Jesus? Have you wondered *where are You Lord? Are You really God Almighty?*
6. What brings about questions like these?
7. Did Jesus rebuke or condemn John for his question? Do you think He rebukes, or encourages and consoles your questions?
8. How did Jesus answer John? What did He tell him? (vs. 4-5)
9. Read Luke 4:18-19. Jesus read this from the prophet Isaiah. What would His response mean to John? Would it renew hope? How?
10. Did Jesus say He would rescue John from prison?
11. Why might God not rescue us from our dungeons? Why does He allow persecution as we faithfully serve Him?
12. Read Psalm 13: 4-5. What should we focus on and find joy in during times of persecution?
13. When we walk in faith, who are people really persecuting? Read Matthew 5: 11-12.
14. Did Jesus care about John and his condition? What did Jesus say about John to the crowd? (vs.7-11)
15. Was Jesus proud of John and how he served? Did He honor him?
16. What did He make known though about God's kingdom and our place in it? (v.11)
17. Read Revelation 21: 1-5. What do we all have to hope for? Where is the home our heart longs for?
18. How can remembering this truth help us endure persecution and trials of all kinds? How can we be encouraged and remember we are truly blessed because we walk in righteousness.
19. Read Matthew 7: 13-14. What does the narrow road lead to? How does this relate to Jesus' teaching of the Beatitudes?
20. What understanding are you taking with you from Jesus' teaching?

**Point to ponder:** The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? Yes, the LORD is for me; he will help me. Psalm 118: 6-7