# Study Guide: "Happy Are the Persecuted" - Matthew Lesson 41

Date: September 28, 2025

This study guide reviews the core themes and key teachings presented in Lesson 41 of the Sermon on the Mount series. It highlights the nature of Christian persecution, its role as an indicator of genuine faith, and the contrast between a righteous life and the world's standards.

### **Part I: Short-Answer Quiz**

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2–3 complete sentences, drawing from the provided material.

- 1. What is the central message of Galatians 4:29, and how does the speaker apply it to the modern Christian experience?
- 2. According to the sermon, what are the two inevitable responses people will have when a Christian shares their message about Christ?
- 3. Why does the speaker assert that Jesus Christ, the most loving person who ever lived, created 'antagonism' wherever He went?
- 4. The speaker uses Abel as a historical example of persecution. What was the reason given for his murder by his brother?
- 5. According to the teaching on Philippians 1:29, what two things does persecution prove about the persecutor and the persecuted?
- 6. The speaker states that if a person claiming to be a Christian experiences no persecution, they should question their spiritual condition. What is the reasoning behind this assertion?
- 7. What critique is offered against 'modern day Christianity' and its relationship with the world? What specific word is used to describe what has been lowered?
- 8. The sermon describes several ways a believer can intentionally avoid persecution. What are three of these methods?
- 9. What warning does Jesus give in Luke 6:26, and how does it relate to the sermon's theme of popularity?
- 10. Beyond martyrdom, what are some modern forms of persecution a Christian might endure in daily life?

## **Part II: Answer Key**

- 1. Galatians 4:29 teaches that 'he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.' The speaker applies this by showing the unchanging reality: the world always persecutes the godly.
- 2. When a Christian speaks of Christ, people either receive the message or reject it with resentment.
- 3. Jesus created antagonism because He confronted sin. His righteousness provoked hostility despite His love and peace.
- 4. Abel was killed by his brother Cain because Cain could not tolerate Abel's righteousness.
- 5. Persecution proves: (1) for persecutors, their destruction (perdition—hell); (2) for believers, the reality of their salvation.
- 6. A truly redeemed life will always be in opposition to Satan and the world's system. A lack of persecution may indicate a compromised faith.
- 7. The critique is that modern day Christianity has lowered its standards. Instead of confronting sin and warning of hell, many churches choose popularity over truth.
- 8. Avoid persecution by: approving worldly morals, avoiding calling people sinners, refusing to preach that Jesus is the only way, blending in with worldly activities, or being ashamed of Christ.
- 9. Luke 6:26 warns: 'Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.' Popularity may signal compromise rather than faithfulness.
- 10. Modern persecution includes being denied promotion at work, ostracism by family or community, and social rejection for confronting sin.

### **Part III: Essay Questions**

- 1. Discuss the contrast between the 'son of flesh' and the 'son of Spirit' as the foundational cause of persecution throughout history.
- 2. Explain why persecution is described as a 'wonderful guarantee' of salvation, using Philippians 1.
- 3. Reflect on the meaning of 'taking up the cross' as self-denial and identification with Christ.
- 4. Critically examine why the church cannot be both popular with the world and faithful to God's standards.
- 5. Analyze the question 'Is Christ ashamed of me today?' and identify conditions that might cause Christ to be ashamed of a believer.

### Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

Term / Concept

**Definition and Context from the Sermon** 

**Antagonism** 

Active hostility; Jesus created antagonism by confronting sin.

**Beatitudes**Blessings from the Sermon on the Mount;

living them out brings persecution.

Charlie Kirk Example of a righteous man whose death was

mocked by pastors, used to illustrate lowered

standards.

Church Ambassador Network Ministry connecting legislators with the

gospel; cited as a real-life example.

**Galatians 4:29** Key scripture: the flesh persecutes the Spirit.

Matthew 5:10–12 Source scripture: blessing and reward for the

persecuted.

Perdition Eternal punishment/hell; persecution is proof

of the persecutor's destiny.

Persecution Hostility faced by believers for living

righteously; an inevitable mark of genuine

faith.

**Philippians 1:29** Verse showing suffering is given as part of the

believer's calling.

**Reaction** The world's hostile response to righteous

living.

**Reproach of the Cross** Shame of identifying with Christ; the cost of

discipleship.

**Righteousness** Living by God's standards; the root cause of

persecution.

**Standards** God's unchanging expectations; modern

Christianity has 'lowered' its standards.

**Truth** Genuine reality according to God; popularity

often hides truth.

✓ Notes:

- No Greek words are present in this document.

- All Scripture references match the NKJV Bible.