

Study Guide: Matthew-Lesson 43
The Sermon on the Mount - Happy Are the Persecuted
October 19, 2025

This study guide is designed to review the core concepts presented in Lesson 43 of the series on the Sermon on the Mount, focusing on Matthew 5:10-12. It covers the nature of persecution, the believer's proper attitude toward it, and the ultimate reasons behind it, as detailed in the source material.

Short Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 complete sentences, drawing exclusively from the information presented in the lesson.

1. According to the sermon, what are the three specific ways Jesus states that believers will be wronged by the world?
2. The speaker discusses the Greek word for "persecute." What was its original meaning, and what is its more specific meaning within this biblical context?
3. How does the sermon contrast the teachings of the Beatitudes with the prevailing Jewish religious system of that era?
4. What specific attitude does the sermon argue a believer should adopt towards persecution, based on the Greek text?
5. What is the significance of the "perfect tense" being used in the Greek to describe the believer's attitude toward persecution?
6. The speaker notes that the third form of persecution—being spoken of falsely—is the hardest to endure. What reason does he give for this difficulty?
7. What does the Greek word for "revile" (*onei*) literally mean, and what kind of abuse does it describe?
8. Ultimately, why does the world persecute believers? Who is the true object of their resentment?
9. The sermon explains that the world became resentful when Jesus appeared as a perfect man. What effect did Jesus's perfection have on the world's self-perception?
10. Despite the loss and hardship of persecution, what eternal promise is given to believers that can never be taken away?

Answer Key

1. Jesus specifies three ways believers will be wronged: they will be reviled, they will be persecuted, and people will say all kinds of evil against them falsely for His sake.
2. The Greek word for "persecute" originally meant to pursue, drive, or chase someone away. In the context of Matthew 5, it carries the idea of harassment or treating someone evilly.
3. The Beatitudes are focused on inner attitudes and the state of one's heart. This is contrasted with the Jewish religious system of the time, which the speaker describes as being all about external things and a "work orientation" of performing specific actions.
4. The sermon argues that a believer should have an attitude of willingness to be persecuted. Based on the Greek passive participle, this is interpreted as being "permissive" in this willingness, meaning you allow yourself to be persecuted rather than fleeing from it.
5. The use of the perfect tense in the Greek indicates that this willingness to be persecuted is something that happens and then continues in the believer's life. It suggests that this should be a constant, ongoing attitude for a child of God.
6. The speaker finds being spoken of falsely the hardest to endure because it forces one to defend themselves over something they never said. While he doesn't mind if people dislike what he actually says, defending against lies is what is truly difficult.
7. The Greek word for "revile" (*onei*) literally means "to cast in one's teeth" or to throw something in someone's face. This describes an abuse that is vile, vicious, and mocking in nature, as seen in the way people scorned Jesus during the crucifixion.
8. The world does not truly hate the individual believer; they hate Christ. The resentment is directed at the Christ-like life the believer lives, which serves as a standard the world cannot attain.
9. When Jesus, a perfect man, came into the world, it "blew the world apart." Mankind lost its self-confidence and the smug contentment it had in its sinfulness, as it was now confronted with a perfect standard it could not meet.
10. The eternal promise is the "kingdom of heaven." Persecutors can take everything a believer has in this world, but they can never take away the future that Christ has prepared for them, as the fruit of their faith is forever.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Consider the following questions for deeper reflection and discussion. Formulate a comprehensive response based on the themes and details provided in the lesson.

1. The speaker states, "Blessed are those who allow themselves to be persecuted." Analyze this statement in the context of the sermon's discussion of the "passive participle" and the "perfect tense" in the Greek text. How does this reframe the idea of persecution from a passive experience to an active choice of attitude?
2. Discuss the speaker's argument that the world persecutes believers not because they hate the individual, but because "they hate Christ." How does this concept connect to the examples of Jesus's perfection rebuking the world and the historical persecution of his disciples?
3. The sermon identifies three forms of persecution: being "chased" (persecuted), "reviled," and having "evil said against you falsely." Using details from the text, explain each of these forms and why the speaker finds the last one the most difficult to endure.
4. Explain the concept of "spiritual warfare" as mentioned in the service. How does the hymn "Spirit of the Living God" serve as a tool to combat it, and how does the sermon's main topic of persecution represent a primary front in this warfare?
5. The speaker warns against the church lowering its standards and becoming "lukewarm." How does the core message of Matthew 5:10-12—the call to willingly face persecution for righteousness' sake—serve as a direct challenge to spiritual neutrality and accommodation with the world?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Arthur Pink	A noted English Bible teacher known for his writings on reformed theology. He is quoted as saying, "It is strong proof of human depravity that men's curses and Christ's blessings should meet on the same person."
Atonement	The act of making amends for sin. The hymn "To God Be the Glory" mentions that Jesus "yielded his life and atonement for sin."

Beatitudes	The series of blessings spoken by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, found in the Gospel of Matthew. The lesson focuses on the final beatitude concerning persecution.
Charlie Kirk	An individual mentioned as a contemporary example of someone willing to be persecuted, who reportedly receives death threats daily for speaking out.
Daniel Iverson	The writer of the hymn "Spirit of the Living God," composed in 1926 during a period of spiritual awakening.
Discourse	Defined within the sermon as simply a "sermon" or a "declaration." The Sermon on the Mount is identified as the first of five great discourses in the Gospel of Matthew.
Onel	The Greek word for "revile." It literally means "to cast in one's teeth" or "to throw something in somebody's face," signifying a vile and mocking form of abuse.
Passive Participle (Greek)	A grammatical form noted in the sermon. Its use in Matthew 5:10 is interpreted to indicate a "permissive" willingness to be persecuted, where one allows it to happen.
Perfect Tense (Greek)	A grammatical tense noted in the sermon. Its use implies an action that has occurred and continues, suggesting that a willingness to be persecuted should be a believer's "constant attitude."
Persecute	From a Greek word that originally meant "to pursue or drive or chase someone away." In the context of the sermon, it refers to harassment and treating someone evilly.
Revile	One of the three forms of persecution mentioned by Jesus. It is characterized as a vile, vicious, and mocking abuse intended to scorn the believer.
Righteousness' Sake	The reason given in Matthew 5:10 for why believers are persecuted. The sermon clarifies this is also "for my [Jesus's] sake," as the persecution is a reaction to Christ's holiness.
Sermon on the Mount	The first great discourse delivered by Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5-7. It is the subject of the ongoing sermon series.

Spiritual Warfare

The ongoing conflict with Satan, who attacks believers "at our weakest points and at our hardest times." This reality is mentioned as a reason for needing the Holy Spirit's renewal.

Yoke

A term from Matthew 11:28-29, quoted before a special song. Jesus invites the weary to take His yoke upon them, describing it as "easy" and His burden as "light."