

The Beatitudes: The Persecuted Righteous

Blessed are those who are
persecuted because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult
you, persecute you and falsely say all
kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is
your reward in heaven, for in the same
way they persecuted the prophets who
were before you.

But the Lord is with me like a mighty
warrior;
so my persecutors will stumble and
not prevail.
They will fail and be thoroughly
disgraced;
their dishonor will never be forgotten.

For it is commendable if a man
bears up under the pain of unjust
suffering because he is conscious of
God. But how is it to your credit if you
receive a beating for doing wrong and
endure it? But if you suffer for doing
good and you endure it, this is
commendable before God. To this you
were called, because Christ suffered for
you, leaving you an example, that you
should follow in his steps.

That is why, for Christ's sake, I
delight in weaknesses, in insults, in
hardships, in persecutions, in
difficulties. For when I am weak, then I
am strong.

Matthew 5:10-12; Jeremiah 20:11
1 Peter 2:19-21; 2 Corinthians 12:10