



Bottom Line:
“Persecution is always better than prosperity”

Key Scripture:
Matthew 5:11-12, John 15:18
and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Engage

Do you remember the advice that your parents would give you or say all the time? Things like: *“If it was easy, everyone would do it”* or *“Do it right the first time and you won't have to do it again.”* We may have rolled our eyes as a kid but now realize there are a lot of truths in those statements. Throughout the Bible, Jesus makes some statements that maybe we wish he never said.

1. What are some of the things your parents said to you growing up that you still remember?
2. What are some things that the Bible says that you wish weren't in there?

Unpack

Take a moment and read through *Matthew 5:11-12*.

3. What is something that sticks out to you in this passage?
4. If the meaning of the word *“Blessed”* is to be *“Holy”*, then what does it mean to you to be holy?

Apply

Persecution is something that I don't know if we will ever feel here in America like the rest of the world feels. Whatever form it takes here in the states may yet to be known, however we still have things we can do when persecution hits. Devote to Christ daily, remember to keep a proper perspective and to not take grace for granted.

5. Is there anything in your life right now that needs to change?
6. How can this group pray for you and help you in that area?

Take some time to pray and ask God to continually guide and lead you life.