

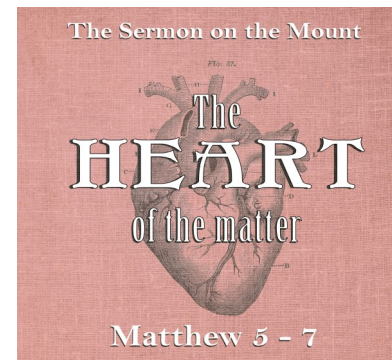
The Heart of the Matter

14. What did you learn about the eighth beatitude?

15. What does Jesus command us to do for those who persecute us (Matt. 5:43-48)?

16. When we suffer unjustly and respond with love and concern for those who harass us, what does that reveal about us?

Praises and Prayer Requests



Life Group Study Guide

**Happy Are the Harassed
Matthew 5:10-12**

For the Week of May 9, 2021

Getting Started

1. What idea, thought or application caught your attention from this past Sunday's message?

2. Read the eight Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-10. How do these qualities build on each other? Which are hardest for you? Why?

3. Define the meaning of "persecution". In what ways are we persecuted today?

4. What is our natural reaction when others harass and oppress us?

Digging Deeper

5. What is the eighth beatitude (5:10-12)? How is this beatitude different from the other ones?

6. If we are fully devoted to Jesus, allowing Him to develop the other qualities in our lives, how will unbelievers respond to us (2 Timothy 3:12; Philippians 1:29)?

7. What is the promise associated with this characteristic (Matthew 5:10)? Why is this comforting?

8. What are three specific types of affliction that we will need to endure for Christ's sake (5:11-12)?

9. What forms does physical persecution take in the USA? What about in countries in the Middle East, or countries like China and other communist countries?

10. Compare how the world treated Jesus with how they will treat us (John 15:18-20)?

11. Based on Jesus' response (1 Peter 2:21-24), how should we respond to those who insult us?

12. What should be our response to those who falsely accuse us (1 Peter 3:13-16)?

13. Why can we rejoice when we are persecuted (Matt. 5:11-12; Mark 10:29-30)? How will we be rewarded?