



**SIMPLY
THE
BLESSED**

**The Book of Matthew was
written during a time of
terrible persecution at the
hands of Emperor Nero**



Matthew 5:1-12



**2 Key Phrases
we MUST understand to
comprehend the Blessing:**



1. “For the Sake of Righteousness”

**Would you allow God to take
your persecution and to use it
(as you focus on Him)
for the sake of righteousness?**



2. “Because of Me”

**Jesus was persecuted (bad mouthed;
hated; betrayed; rejected; etc)**

**If that’s what Jesus faced,
we should expect that as well**



**BLESSED ARE
THE PERSECUTED**



Matthew 5:10-12

**“Persecution” = to be
mistreated, to trouble, to harass,
to suffer on the account of
someone or something**



**Overall the concept of
persecution is universally
considered as something
NEGATIVE**



**The very reason why
you are persecuted is the
very reason why you can
endure persecution
(Jesus Christ)**



**There are 3 powerful truths
that change our
perspective on persecution:**



**1. God will shield us
(Nothing will happen to us that
God has NOT first allowed to
occur in our lives)**

Lamentations 3:37-40



Romans 8:28-30

**Nothing happens in a
follower of Jesus' life which
God does NOT first allow**



**God uses it ALL
(the good and the bad)
for the purpose of conforming
us to the image of Jesus Christ
(His Son)**



**2. God will comfort us
(we DON'T have to face
ANYTHING alone...the God of
ALL comfort is with us
comforting us in abundance)**

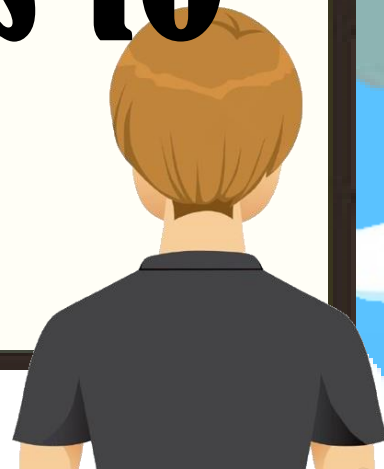


II Corinthians 1:3-7

**That affliction (suffering) ISN'T
minimized (God knows it hurts,
but God meets us in our
hurts and comforts us)**



Followers of Jesus will face hardships, but when we do, we are comforted and we can use those afflictions to comfort other people



**3. God will carry us
(this speaks of Israel, but is
applicable to us too)**

Isaiah 46:3-4



**We NEVER
have to face
ANY persecution alone**



**All persecution has
an expiration date
(whatever you're facing
will NOT last forever)**



**We've got to understand
that today's world is NOT a
friend to God and that means
it's also NOT a friend to
followers of God either**



John 15:18-27

**Followers of Christ are
supposed to be different**



**The Sermon on the Mount forces
us to ask the tough question –
“How badly do we
really want Jesus?”**



**Jesus ISN'T looking
for fence riders
(following Jesus means
we're fully committed
and devoted to Him)**



II Timothy 3:12

Matthew 5:10-12



SO WHAT?

