

at HOME

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BLESSED ***Are Those Who are*** ***Persucuted for Righteousness***

-- Matthew 5:10 -



Dear Friends,

Most of us hope to be understood. We want our words to be received kindly and our intentions to be recognized. We want our choices to make sense and be supported by those around us. So, when Jesus says,

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

His words can feel unsettling. Why would doing what is right ever lead to hardship? The Beatitudes have been gently turning our understanding upside down from the very beginning. Jesus called the poor in spirit to be blessed, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. Now He reminds us that living this kind of life will not always be understood. Sometimes choosing honesty costs us. Sometimes forgiveness is mistaken for weakness, and sometimes kindness is overlooked. Following Jesus means walking a different path than the one the worlds applaud. It doesn't mean we are doing something wrong, it often means we are becoming more like Christ.

Jesus never promised that faithfulness would always be comfortable. He did promise us that He would never leave us.

SEE clearly -- Jesus Himself lived this Beatitude. He loved completely and spoke with compassion. He healed, He forgave, and still He was misunderstood, rejected and ultimately crucified. To follow Him has always required one to have courage!

TELL the truth -- What is true here is deeply reassuring: Your faithfulness is never unseen by God!

You may feel that if you are misunderstood than you have failed in some compacity, but Jesus tells another story. Faithfulness is not measured by applause it is measured by trust. The approval of God is steadier than the approval of people, and His presence is stronger than our fears.

LINGER with Jesus -- If you are able, take a quiet moment this week.

Notice any place that you have felt misunderstood. Perhaps someone has questioned your intention. Perhaps doing the right thing has come at a cost. Maybe you have quietly wondered if following Jesus is worth it, bring that honesty before Him. Then quietly ask "Jesus, what is true and who am I in this?"

Remain there for a few minutes.

Let His voice become louder than any other voice.

LIVE His way -- This week, choose one small act of quiet faithfulness. Not because someone will notice, not because there is recognition to receive, but simply because love is the right way to live. Trust in the fact that God sees what others may never see.

What does this say about you? If Jesus calls those who suffer for doing what is right blessed, then it tells us something true about who you are. You are defined by the opinions of others. You are not abandoned when your faith is misunderstood. According to Jesus, you belong to His Kingdom, you are seen by your Father, and your faithfulness matters even when no one else recognizes it.

We would love to hear from you. If this message met you in a meaningful way, or if you have been reflecting, praying or simply sitting with these words, we invite you to reach out.

You can call the church office # (316) 942-1491 or send me an email anytime – kate.green@asburychurch.org. Your thoughts and experiences are a gift to us.

With Love,

Kate Green, the Asbury Staff, and your Asbury Church Family