

Matthew 5:10–11

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Many Bible students enjoy reading scriptures from the section that is generally called the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5 through 7 in the book of Matthew).

When Christ saw the multitude, He went up on a mountain (Matthew 5:1). When He was seated, His disciples came to Him (same verse). Then, He began to teach them (verse 2). Today, let's look at Matthew 5:11-12.

Matthew 5:11-12—"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Say evil against you falsely

The Son of God certainly understood how it felt to be reviled, persecuted and falsely accused.

Notice a few examples.

Luke 11:53-54—"And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him."

Luke 20:20—"So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor."

Luke 21:12—"But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake."

Luke 22:2—"And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people."

Luke 22:48—"But Jesus said to him, 'Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?' "

Luke 22:52-53—"Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, 'Have you come out, as against a rob-

ber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.' "

Luke 23:2—"And they began to accuse Him, saying, 'We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.' "

Luke 23:10—"And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him."

Luke 23:21-23—"But they shouted, saying, 'Crucify Him, crucify Him!' Then he said to them the third time, 'Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go.' But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed."

Reward in heaven

In an epistle from the apostle Peter found later in the Bible, he wrote about the Kingdom being reserved in heaven for the elect.

1 Peter 1:3-5—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."