

Matthew 5:10

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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 5:10.

Matthew 5:10—"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Persecuted for righteousness' sake

There are many verses in the New Testament where the Son of God warned His disciples that they might suffer persecution.

In Luke 21:12, He warned about both civil rulers and religious rulers. In Luke 21:16, He warned about family.

He mentioned that disciples should not be surprised when persecution may come.

John 15:20-21—"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me."

The apostle Paul mentioned persecution on several occasions.

2 Timothy 3:12—"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

The apostle Peter mentioned a contrast between suffering consequences for bad behavior and suffering for Christ.

1 Peter 4:12-16—"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He

is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."

Kingdom of heaven

Bible students are aware that the "kingdom of heaven" is mentioned twice in Matthew 5:3-12 (specifically verses 3 and 10).

In the article discussing Matthew 5:3 (on Aug. 11), we mentioned how the Gospel of Matthew often refers to the Kingdom as the kingdom of "heaven" while the other three Gospel writers generally refer to it as the kingdom of "God."

In a particular discussion, the Son of God referred to the Kingdom as both of heaven and of God.

Matthew 19:23-24—"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' "

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."