



*Today's Topic: When we are mistreated because we follow Jesus...*

*Matthew 5:10-12*

*Sunday, October 30, 2022*

### **Jesus's Promise**

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV, 2011)*

### **1. Reality**

*"I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." Attributed to Mahatma Gandhi*

### **2. Reward**

*"We have been silent witnesses of evil deeds: we have been drenched by many storms; we have learnt the arts of equivocation and pretense; experience has made us suspicious of others and kept us from being truthful and open; intolerable conflicts have worn us down and even made us cynical. Are we still of any use?"*

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, After Ten Years, Letters & Papers from Prison (1971), 16.*

### 3. Response

#### The Point:

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*Next Steps:*

*Focus this week on being Christ-like when we are right.*

#### ***Discussion Questions:***

1. Discuss Christ-followers in our time and in history who have suffered for their faith.
2. Read Matthew 5:10-12. Why will followers of Jesus encounter opposition?
3. Have you ever experienced conflict because of your decision to follow Jesus? If so, share this experience with the group.
4. How can we check our motives when we decide to challenge the world for being wrong?
5. What is your reaction to this quote attributed to Mahama Gandhi: *“I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”*
6. Why should the promise of heaven inspire us to endure opposition because we follow Christ?
7. What truth from this study will you think about and try to apply throughout the coming week?