

**Upside-Down Living**  
*The Radical Message of the Beatitudes*  
**The Cost of Following Christ**  
**Matthew 5:10-16**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Nov. 11, 2018*

**I. Don't Be Surprised When They Treat You Like Jesus**

**Matthew 5:11** "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil."

Notice the key word is not 'if,' but 'when.' When they revile you, when they persecute you, and when they say they say all kinds of evil against you falsely. It will happen and when it does, Jesus doesn't want you to be surprised.

Jesus uses the word persecution three times in **v. 10-11**. The word means to be systematically harassed, attacked, opposed or ill-treated.

The world will not thank you for being a Christian, because when you live with these upside down kingdom values, the light of Jesus shines through you and exposes them and makes them uncomfortable because they have to suppress their own conscience to keep doing what they're doing.

The hostility towards you is really rooted in a hostility towards God. People by nature are hostile towards God. When God's people begin to grow in His likeness, the world will hate you too!

**Romans 8:7** "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot."

**II. Don't Just Hunker Down But Rejoice in What's Coming**

**Matthew 5:12** "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven..."

Jesus isn't telling us to just hunker down and endure persecution, but He's telling us to rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

The Greek word for 'exceedingly glad' is a word that describes a feeling of extreme happiness and jubilant exaltation. It's the same word the virgin Mary used in **Luke 1:47** when she burst forth with her song of praise.

**Luke 6:22-23** "Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they excluded you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!"

When all that Christ has done for you gets a hold of you, you'll want to leap for joy because you have such a radical new perspective on everything that's going on around you and everything that's happening to you! That's what Paul was talking about in 2 Corinthians 4:16-17.

This suffering is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory! The greater the suffering now, the greater the reward will be then.

### III. Don't Settle In But Stand Out In the Darkness

**Matthew 5:13-14** "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Jesus doesn't want us to live a life of isolation and contemplation. He wants us to live a life of influence and impact, and that happens best when light is right in the midst of darkness and salt is right in the midst of decay.

Salt prevents decay, but it also adds flavor to life. In other words, life without Christ is bland. Christianity has flavor because we have a Savior that puts taste and meaning back into everything we do.

The city on a hill Jesus spoke about was a metaphor. Building a city on a hill wasn't typical because it would have been expensive and difficult. At night, the torches and lamps of that city would have illuminated the darkness for miles around. Jesus is saying you need to be unusual and countercultural, like a city on a hill would have been.

More information and knowledge isn't the answer for the darkness around us. Fallen man, by nature, still loves darkness rather than light.

**John 3:19-20** "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

Our light doesn't just expose darkness; it shows a way out of darkness. Our dark world will never be able to stem the tide of corruption without the saltiness and holiness of God's people. That's what Paul was talking about in **Philippians 2:15-16**.

### IV. Don't Be Surprised When God Draws People to Himself Through You

When some people get near the salt and light of your life they will hate you, but others will be attracted to it. When you see both of these happening in your life, that's when you know you're in the sweet spot where Jesus meant for you to live.

**Matthew 5:16** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Some people will want to know more about your Savior, your hope, and why you have leaping joy in the midst of hard circumstances. That's when you get a chance to talk to them about Jesus and to explain to them how they can have a right relationship their Heavenly Father and begin to live to glorify Him!

**I Peter 3:14** "But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed, and do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear, having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."

The end game for living this radical upside-down life is not for people to glorify us. It's for them to ask us the reason why and then to look past us and to glorify our Father by giving their lives to Him and living their lives for Him.