

## Marinating in God's Word: Matthew 5:10-12, Acts 5:40-42

Where Jesus is there is blessing. It's basic to our new life in him. So we're exploring all the ways he blesses us, using his blessings in the gospels.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- This is the only beatitude that is repeated (v. 10 and 11). How are the two blessings the same? How do they differ?
- The first blessing (v. 10) has a promise attached, and the second has both directions and a promise (v. 11). How do the promises enable us to carry out the directions?
- Other passages tell us persecution for our trust in Jesus is not an "if" but a "when." Have you ever been persecuted for your faith? Were you able to see any blessing in that struggle?
- Have you known others who were persecuted for their faith? What happened?
- Read up the page from our Acts 5:40-42 verses, to get the larger story. What sort of ministry were the apostles doing (v. 12-16)? Why were they arrested (v. 17-18)? When threatened what did they do (v. 27-32)? That's what brought them a flogging, and then by God's grace they were released (v. 40). What was their response (v. 41-42)? Why were they willing to endure such persecution? How were they blessed?

Next Sunday we will focus upon John 20:29.