

# Matthew 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Analysis

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This beatitude declares 'Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' (Greek: δεδιωγμένοι ἔνεκεν δικαιοσύνης, 'having been persecuted on account of righteousness'). The passive voice indicates suffering inflicted by others, not self-imposed hardship. The critical qualifier 'for righteousness' sake' distinguishes suffering for faithful living from suffering due to foolishness or sin. The promise 'theirs is the kingdom' uses present tense, indicating current possession despite present persecution. Persecution becomes the paradoxical mark of kingdom citizenship.

## Historical Context

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Early Christians faced persecution from both Jewish authorities (excommunication from synagogues) and Roman officials (refusing Caesar worship). Jesus' original audience, living under Roman occupation with memories of Maccabean martyrs, understood persecution. This beatitude would prepare disciples for coming opposition. The emphasis on suffering for righteousness echoes Israel's prophetic tradition where faithful witnesses often faced violent rejection.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do we distinguish between suffering for righteousness and suffering due to our own poor choices?
2. Why is persecution considered a mark of authentic kingdom citizenship?
3. In what ways might we face persecution for righteousness in our cultural context?

## Interlinear Text

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Μακάριοι οἱ δεδιωγμένοι ἐνεκεν δικαιοσύνης  
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake  
G3107 G3588 G1377 G1752 G1343

ὅτι αὐτῶν ἔστιν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven  
G3754 G846 G2076 G3588 G932 G3772

## Additional Cross-References

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**James 1:12** (Blessing): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

**2 Corinthians 4:17** (Parallel theme): For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

**Matthew 5:3** (Kingdom): Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

**Luke 6:22** (Blessing): Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

**2 Timothy 2:12** (Kingdom): If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

**Luke 21:12** (Kingdom): But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

**Philippians 1:28** (Parallel theme): And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

**John 15:20** (Parallel theme): Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also.

**Revelation 2:10** (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

**2 Timothy 3:11** (Parallel theme): Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.