

Happy are the Hassled

Matthew 5:10-12

(series #21)

Introduction: a review of all the Beatitudes

I. The Possible Sources of Persecution

- A. Secular governments

- B. Religious people / establishments

II. The Proper Cause of Persecution

- A. "For righteousness' sake"

- B. Improper causes of persecution
 - 1. Disobeying appropriate laws/rules
 - 2. Political preferences
 - 3. Commitment to causes
 - 4. Being over-zealous
 - 5. Offensive personality
 - 6. Self righteousness
 - 7. Poor work quality
 - 8. Improper actions - 1 Pet. 2:20, 4:15

III. The Promises following Persecution

- A. "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven"
 - 1. Romans 8:18
 - 2. 2nd Corinthians 4:17
 - 3. Luke 10:20

- B. "Great is your reward in heaven"

Concluding applications: Luke 6:22-23