

- E. **“Because great is your reward in heaven”**

- F. **“The same way they persecuted the prophets”**

- G. Polycarp of Smyrna, AD 69-155, died a martyr
 “Eighty and six years have I served Christ, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my king who saved me.”

6. **PERSONAL LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- A. **Is Jesus simply a nice designer accessory to my comfortable socio-economic lifestyle? Or is He essential survival gear that I’m unwilling to go without?**

- B. **Preparing to stand firm through persecution is about allowing Jesus to call the shots now. So, do I advise Jesus what my life should be like, the kind of image I want to maintain; or do I ask Jesus to direct my life and shape me into His image?**

- C. **When Jesus comes, He’s coming for a church that has been through the refiner’s fire and is as pure as refined gold. So, when it comes to the church I want to belong to, do I care more about what I or others think the church should look like; or do I care more about what Jesus thinks the church should be like?**

- D. **In what way(s) have I honored Jesus and His truth this past week as the One who is non-negotiable in my life?**

- E. **In what way(s) might Jesus be calling me this week to honor Him as my “one and only” Lord; by living righteously even if it means persecution for Him?**

Persecution is coming to Jesus’ last day, devoted followers. Now is the time to prepare to stand for Jesus no matter what by making everyday choices which reflect He is Lord of my life.

What If We Took Jesus Seriously? Part 3

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church – Pastor Ron Schultz
Sermon Notes – October 5, 2013

HSDAC Mission: Develop fully committed followers of Christ



Sermon on the Mount: Carl Bloch, 1834-1890, Public Domain

In this four-part series based on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, we’re exploring what a truly devoted follower of Jesus looks and acts like. The teachings of Jesus as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount answer the questions: What if we took Jesus seriously? How would we really live in relationship to God and others?

1. **Brief Review**

- A. The Sermon on the Mount takes place about a year and a half into Jesus’ _____ ministry.

- B. Reminiscent of the Old Testament Mount _____ where six Israelite tribes pronounced blessings after crossing into the promised land to set up a new earthly kingdom, Jesus pronounces fresh, riveting blessings unlike anything the disciples had ever heard. These beatitudes usher in a new spiritual kingdom.

- C. “Blessed” is not to be confused with human happiness. It’s a deep _____ that’s anchored to who God is rather than external circumstances.

- 2. **Matthew 5:9**
 - A. **“Peacemakers”**
 “In the Bible peace means not only freedom from all trouble it means enjoyment of all _____.” The Gospel of Matthew, vol 1, William Barclay, p. 108

B. **Ephesians 2:13-22** – Jesus Himself is our _____ because He has reconciled us to God. He is the ultimate peace child.

C. **“Called sons of God”**

D. “The heart that is in harmony with God is a partaker of the peace of heaven and will _____ its blessed influence on all around. . . . Whoever, by the quiet unconscious influence of a holy life, shall reveal the love of Christ; whoever, by word or deed, shall lead another to renounce sin and yield his heart to God, is a peacemaker.” Thoughts from The Mount of Blessing, Ellen White, p. 28

E. Full disclosure: While Jesus is our peace, not all relationships will turn out peaceably. **Matthew 10:34-36**

F. **Romans 12:18** “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” NIV

3. **PERSONAL LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

A. **How would those who are closest to me at work and in my family describe me?**

.....
Troublemaker **Peacemaker**

B. **For the sake of the kingdom of God, I believe Jesus is calling me to extend His peace to _____.**

C. **Is my need to be right keeping me from making peace with someone? If so, who? _____**

D. **Is there some situation where I’ve denied Jesus for the sake of keeping the peace?**

4. **Matthew 5:10**

A. The world of first century Christians
–Work

–Society

–Family

B. **“Persecuted because of righteousness”**

C. **Matthew 5:43-48** – How should we treat those who persecute us?

D.. “Persecution and reproach await all who are _____ with the Spirit of Christ. The character of the persecution changes with the times, but the principle—the spirit that underlies it—is the same that has slain the chosen of the Lord ever since the days of able.” TMB p. 29

E. **“Kingdom of heaven”**

5. **Matthew 5:11-12**

A. **“Insult, persecute, falsely say all kinds of evil”**

B. “While slander may blacken the reputation, it cannot _____ the character.” TMB p. 32

C. **“Because of me”**
Who is Jesus to you? A mere “favorite” on a long list of “likes”? It’s possible to be merely a fan but not a follower of Jesus. Persecution is the refiner’s fire that reveals the truth. If you’re just a fan you’ll keep Jesus as long as He does not inconvenience you.

D. **“Rejoice and be glad”**