

**“Persecuted”
July 25, 2010**

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:10

“Blessing” - *The pleasures of God that satisfy the soul.*

Today’s Message: *Fear Not...Take a Stand In The Light!*
To be, or not to be persecuted: that is the question.

**** The Promises of Persecution:**

A. The righteous will be persecuted. Why? John 3:19-20

1. Evil opposes God, and His children.
2. Evil hates to be exposed to the “light.”
3. Jesus is the ultimate threat to evil and said we would be too, and therefore, persecuted. John 15:20

B. The persecuted will be blessed. How? Mt. 5:43-44

1. Praying & receiving the supernatural love of God.
2. Rejoicing in JESUS our reward! Now & eternally!

C. The persecuted will shine. Mt. 5:14-16

Is there enough of Jesus’ righteousness in me to be considered a threat to evil?

Fear Not...Take a Stand In The Light!

Acts 5:41 *“The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.”*

**DNA Discussion Guide
“Persecuted?” Matthew 5:10-12**

Opening Prayer: Lord, teach us to take a stand in your light.

Today’s Message: *Fear Not...Take a Stand In The Light!*

Personal Sharing:

1. Have you ever felt persecuted in trying to live for Christ? What happened? How did you handle it?
2. How does the example of Corrie Ten Boom affect you?

Digging In:

1. Read Acts 5:17-42. What does this passage teach us about persecution for righteousness sake?
2. Fear gets in the way of us taking a stand in the light of faith. What does 1 John 4:18 teach us about fear?
3. What did the Lord keep telling Joshua regarding his fears? Joshua 1-2
4. Jesus says if we carry his righteousness in us we will be persecuted. How are we to handle it? Matt. 5:10-12, 43-44
5. So where’s the *blessing* in the promises of persecution?

Application:

1. Am I being persecuted for righteousness sake? If not, why not? Is there enough of the righteousness of Christ shining through me that evil considers me a threat?
2. What steps do I need to take to leave fear behind and take a stand in the light?

Share prayer requests and pray for each other.

** This is the last official DNA Group time for the summer. We will begin new DNA Groups in the September.*