



You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. Matthew 5:13

- We can't influence the culture of this world when we **compromise** with it.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:10-12

- Those who identify with Jesus will be **treated** like Jesus.
...all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... 2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

This persecution is not about:

- This is not a persecution that comes because of the **political party** we belong to.
- This is not a persecution that happens because we're **rude** to others.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness... Matthew 5:10 (NIV)
- We are persecuted because we're **righteous**.
- We are persecuted when we act like **Jesus**.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Matthew 5:11 (NIV)

If you find the godless world is hating you, remember it got its start hating me. If you lived on the world's terms, the world would love you as one of its own. But since I picked you to live on God's terms and no longer on the world's terms, the world is going to hate you. John 15:18 (MSG)

...only someone who has God's Spirit can understand spiritual blessings. Anyone who doesn't have God's Spirit thinks these blessings are foolish. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (CEV)

God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. John 3:19-20

The World loves the darkness, not the light.

...in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:12 (NIV)

Persecution includes:

- Personal **rejection**.
- Physical **attacks**.

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12

Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. 1 Peter 4:13

- Persecution makes us **partners** with **Christ**.

¹⁹ So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you. 1 Peter 4:19 (NLT)

This is a great principle:

- Do what is **right** and trust God with the **results**.

How do we respond in persecution:

- Don't be **surprised**.

Dear friends, don't be surprised or shocked when you go through painful trials that are like walking through fire, as though something unusual is happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12 (TEV)

- Don't be **afraid**.

"If you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it, so don't be afraid and don't worry! Instead, worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it." 1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT)

- Don't be **ashamed**.

"It is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Instead, thank God for the privilege of being called by his name!" 1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)

- Don't forget that the attacks against you are not **personal**; they're **spiritual**.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

- Respond with **prayer** and **blessing**.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 (ESV)

LOVE your enemies! DO GOOD to those who hate you. BLESS those who curse you. PRAY for those who hurt you. Luke 6:27b-29a (NLT)

...great is your reward in heaven.... Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

VISION:

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

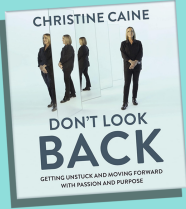
These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Do you find this beatitude to be difficult for your natural man to accept? Explain
- Do you find persecution to be a privilege? Do you think persecution will become greater for us here in the United States?
- Do you experience persecution in your life? In what ways?
- Why do we experience persecution when we are made right with God?
- Have you received any persecution that made you feel like a partner with Christ? How does persecution partner us with Jesus?
- Talk through the points under the subheading: "How we respond in persecution:"
- Why should we not be surprised by persecution? Why should we not be afraid? With that said, when persecution happens are you surprised and afraid?
- Do you find it difficult to recognize that persecution is not personal but spiritual?
- Are you able to respond with prayer and blessings?
- How does the reward of persecution give your life strength?

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CHRISTINE CAINE
DON'T LOOK BACK
GETTING UNSTUCK AND MOVING FORWARD WITH PASSION AND PURPOSE

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in the Quest Great Room

sign up in the courtyard

Study Guide available on amazon

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@The Quest

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Board Games Cards 6:30 pm

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Sorry, there will be No Child Care

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Free Grocery Giveaway!



Saturday, September 20
11am Prep / Noon -1:30p Food Giveaway



Today's Talk..



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Sunday, September 7th, 2025