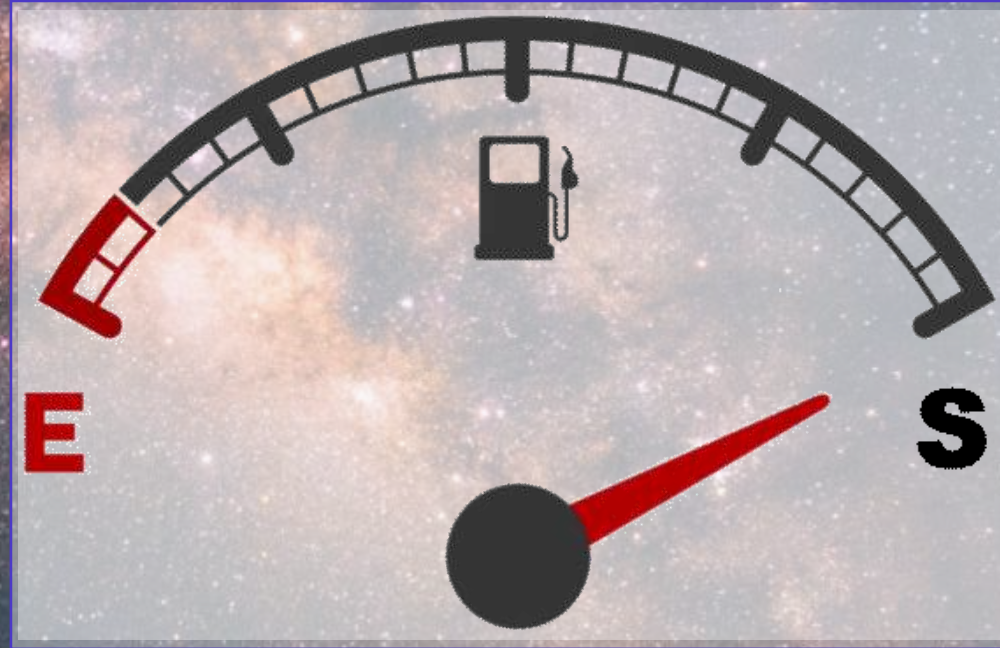
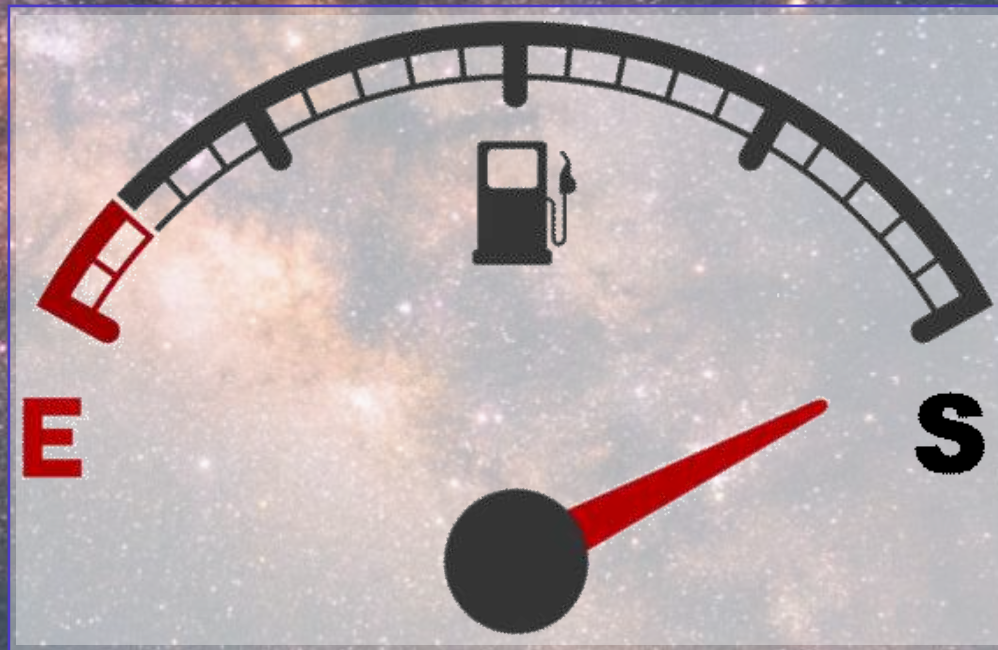


SATISFACTION



Finding the satisfaction in life that Jesus promised

ARE YOU N?



Matthew 5:10-12

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

¹¹ "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

BEATITUDES RECAP

Matthew 5:3

God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

BEATITUDES RECAP

Matthew 5:4

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

BEATITUDES RECAP

Matthew 5:5

God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

BEATITUDES RECAP

Matthew 5:6

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

BEATITUDES RECAP

Matthew 5:7

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

BEATITUDES RECAP

Matthew 5:8

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

BEATITUDES RECAP

Matthew 5:9

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

THE PERSECUTION PARADOX

Matthew 5:10-12

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

THE PERSECUTION PARADOX

- This last beatitude serves as a test for all the others. Enduring persecution is as normal as being merciful or making peace.
- This is the longest beatitude and the hardest to embrace.
- It's the only beatitude with a command, "Rejoice and be glad!"
- It's the only beatitude with an explanation.
- It's the only one repeated twice. Jesus is saying we are "doubly blessed" when persecution comes our way.
- This beatitude is addressed directed to you and I.

NOT “IF” BUT “WHEN”

John 15:20

Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.

A person is sitting on a dark rock in the lower right corner of the image, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The sky is a deep blue and purple, with the galaxy's light appearing as a bright, hazy band of stars stretching across the upper left and middle of the frame. The overall mood is contemplative and awe-inspiring.

NOT “IF” BUT “WHEN”

2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

NOT “IF” BUT “WHEN”

1 Peter 4:12-13

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ 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.

NOT “IF” BUT “WHEN”

Philippians 1:27-29

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. ²⁸ Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. ²⁹ For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

A person is sitting on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The sky is a deep blue and purple, with the galaxy's light stretching across it. The person is a small figure in the distance, emphasizing the scale of the universe.

THE DISCIPLES LED THE WAY

Matthew 24:9-10

Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.

THE DISCIPLES LED THE WAY

Matthew 16:25

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.



BECAUSE OF ME

Matthew 5:10-11

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.

BECAUSE OF ME

1 Peter 4:15-16

If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. ¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

BECAUSE OF ME

When people insult you

1 Peter 4:14

If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.



BECAUSE OF ME

When people insult you

Luke 6:22

What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man.

BECAUSE OF ME

When people persecute you

Acts 5:41-42

The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. 42 And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

BECAUSE OF ME

When people persecute you

Hebrews 11:35-38

Women received their loved ones back again from death.

But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. ³⁶ Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were

BECAUSE OF ME

When people persecute you

Hebrews 11:35-38

chained in prisons. ³⁷ Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. ³⁸ They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

A person is sitting on a dark rock in the lower right corner of the image, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The galaxy's bright, orange and white band stretches across the sky from the top left towards the bottom right. The background is a deep blue and black, dotted with numerous individual stars.

BECAUSE OF ME

When they falsely say all kinds of evil against you
because of me

JUMP FOR JOY

Matthew 5:12

Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

JUMP FOR JOY

James 1:2-3

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

A person is sitting on a dark rock in the lower right corner of the image, looking up at the night sky. The sky is filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy, which is a bright, hazy band of light stretching across the frame. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a deep blue and black color palette.

JUMP FOR JOY

Persecution confirms our relationship with Jesus.

JUMP FOR JOY

Persecution makes us rely on Jesus more.

2 Corinthians 12:10

That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

JUMP FOR JOY

Persecution cultivates righteousness in us

1 Peter 5:10

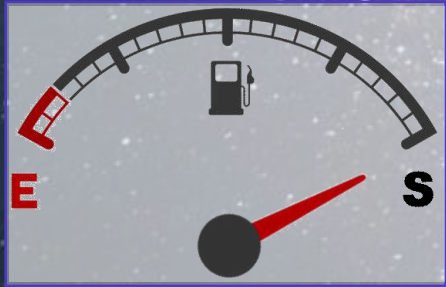
In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

JUMP FOR JOY

Persecution helps us to look ahead to our reward.

2 Timothy 4:18

Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.



**“HE IS NO FOOL WHO GIVES UP
WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP TO
GAIN WHAT HE CANNOT LOSE.”**

JIM ELLIOT



ARE YOU N?



