

Sermon Series: "Counter Culture"

Text: Matthew 5-7

Message 10: Beatitude #8 – "Hopefully Harassed"

* KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: **MATTHEW 5:10-12**

* Key Question: Have you ever been demeaned because of your faith?

* 2 Timothy 3:12 → Acts 9:15-16 (prophetic words of Paul's ministry)

* 1 John 3:13

* Note the phrase "*BECAUSE OF*" in Matthew 5:10 & 11

- RIGHTEOUSNESS (vs. 10)

- CHRIST (vs. 11)

* There is a world of difference between being "persecuted for faith" and being "punished for foolishness" – SEE: 1 PETER 4:14-15

* **3 KINDS of PERSECUTION:**

1) _____

- Greek: "**dioko**" = chase away / pursue / abuse / harass

- Hebrews 11:35b-40 / 1 Corinthians 4:9, 11-13

2) _____

- Matthew 5:11

3) _____

- Matthew 5:11

* **Question**: HOW DO WE RESPOND? ----- * **Answer**: MATTHEW 5:12

- REJOICE and BE GLAD

- Your GREAT REWARD is HEAVEN

- You're in GOOD COMPANY & NOT ALONE