



# THE **BLESSED** BATTLE

HAPPY ARE THE MISTREATED PT 2



**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 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.”**

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**THE BEATITUDES OF JESUS**



**Positive World (Pre-1994):**

**Society at large retains a mostly positive view of Christianity.**

**Neutral World (1994–2014):**

**Society takes a neutral stance toward Christianity.**

**Negative World (2014–Present):**

**Society has come to have a negative view of Christianity.**



**“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.”**

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**MATTHEW 5:10-12, NIV**



**“The notion here is that one’s eternal/kingdom state correlates with one’s response to God in the present life. This isn’t works righteousness but instead the moral call to responsibility in light of eternal correlation. Jesus later teaches that the disciple’s reward far outstrips the correlation. Blended together, the ‘persecuted’ are those who seek God’s will in spite of what others want, who love God so much they are faithful to God when oppressed, and who follow Jesus so unreservedly they suffer for him. Inherent in persecution, then, are both a love of God and a denial of self.”**

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**SCOT MCKNIGHT, SERMON ON THE MOUNT**



**All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one.**

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**HEBREWS 11:13-16, 35-38 NIV**



**Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. ...There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them.**

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**HEBREWS 11:13-16, 35-38 NIV**



**“Radical love invites us to endure, to keep on doing good, whatever the cost, to believe that right action is more important than any opposition we may face. ...When you have something worth dying for that means more to you than any resistance or persecution you might face—that’s something to rejoice about. In each moment that we seek radical love, we join the lineage of those who have gone before us, who have lived from the hope that love is greater than fear, and that death is not final.”**

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**MARK SCANDRETTE, THE NINEFOLD PATH OF JESUS**



**“If we are going to find lasting solutions to difficult conflicts or external wars we find ourselves in, we first need to find our way out of the internal wars that are poisoning our thoughts, feelings, and attitudes toward others. If we can't put an end to the violence within us, there is no hope for putting an end to the violence without.”**

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**ARBINGER INSTITUTE, THE ANATOMY OF PEACE**



**Reactivity**

**Herding**

**Blame Displacement**

**Quick-Fix Mentality**

**Lack Of Well-Differentiated Leadership**

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**EDWIN FRIEDMAN, 5 ASPECTS OF AN ANXIOUS CULTURE**



**“Jesus took in hatred, held it, transformed it, and gave back love;  
he took in bitterness, held it, transformed it, and gave back  
graciousness; he took in curses, held them, transformed them, and  
gave back blessings; and he took in murder, held it, transformed it,  
and gave back forgiveness.”**

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**RONALD ROLHEISER, SACRED FIRE**



**Affection**

**Persuasion**

**Resolution**

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**TIM KELLER, HOW CHRISTIANS ARE TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC**



**In what ways does anxiety block your ability to respond well? How can you become a non-anxious presence to love others well?**

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**NEXT STEP**