



**International Bible Lesson**  
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series  
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

**Truth Telling Brings Persecution**  
**June 30, 2019**  
**Matthew 5:1-12**

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:10).*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied (Matthew 5:6). Almost everyone who has suffered from the unrighteousness of others has hungered and thirsted for justice, for the situation to be made right. If we have done wrong and have also seriously considered the laws of God and have learned how Jesus Christ applied the Ten Commandments to people’s thoughts and desires, we have also hungered for forgiveness, and righteousness within ourselves. We have thirsted to be made right and have peace with God and others. Through faith in Jesus Christ, who will forgive us for our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, we will be satisfied; and when He returns, we will be made right. Between now and then, the followers of Jesus Christ work for righteousness, justice, and peace. They announce to everyone that because of the love and mercy of God, Jesus Christ can give righteousness and peace to all who will receive Him as their Lord and Savior. Simultaneously, they live according to the commands of Jesus and warn people, states, and nations of the dire consequences that will come from living contrary to the Ten Commandments. They

warn of the consequences when people, states, and nations will not act with justice and righteousness in their relationships with other people, states, and nations. Because they follow Jesus and repeat His warnings, they suffer persecution for righteousness sake. But they also believe Jesus' promises and know they will live forever in the kingdom of God; which Paul defined as "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17).

### **Thinking Further**

1. Why do you think Jesus began His beatitudes by saying those who are poor in spirit are happy or blessed? How might this differ from a worldly perspective?
2. What is the promise in the second beatitude? How might this promise encourage a follower of Jesus?
3. What does the world usually think of a meek person? What does Jesus think about a meek person? Why do you think there is a difference in thinking?
4. What is the relationship between hungering and thirsting for righteousness and purity of heart?
5. Why are the followers of Jesus persecuted rather than honored by the world? Why do you think some in the church persecute those in the church who are truly seeking to follow Jesus?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.  
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