

2015 “The Jesus Year”

“Leap!”

Jumping Into The God Life (Part #8)

“A Painful Leap!”

Matthew 5:10-12

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

*Persecution...

The Blessing No One Wants!

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.”—**John 15:18-21 (NIV)**

*Persecution...

There’s No Avoiding It!

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”—**2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)**

*Persecution...

**Make Sure It’s Because Of Jesus...
Not Because You’re Being A _____!**

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

¹⁴If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”—**1 Peter 4:12-16 (NIV)**

*Persecution...

It Is Designed To Bring Joy!

*You’re Reflecting Jesus!

“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”—**Philippians 3:10 (NIV)**

*There’s A Reward!

“Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them.”—**Romans 12:14 (NLT)**

“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.”
—**Matthew 5:12**

*You’re In Good Company!

“...for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”—**Matthew 5:12**

*Persecution...

We Must Never Forget!

“²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”—**1 Corinthians 12:27, 26**

“Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.”—**Hebrews 13:3 (NLT)**