

Date: October 1, 2017

Sermon Title: The Promise of Persecution

Speaker: Richard Smith

Scripture text(s): Matthew 5:10-12

- 1) In what ways do we incorrectly label a hardship in our lives as being persecution?
 - 2) How are you experiencing persecution right now? How are you seeing the Lord move in your life through it?
 - 3) Richard challenged us by asking the questions: “Does anyone find your faith offensive? Does anyone find your faith attractive?” Discuss these questions and the implications of both.
 - 4) What does the world see in you? The world? The Beatitudes? What can you do in your life to live according to the Beatitudes?
 - 5) How does the world respond to a believer living out the Beatitudes?
 - 6) Richard said that many reject Christ because they aren’t looking for true peace but instead for a truce or a compromise from God. How have you seen this in someone you know and how did it affect their lives? How has this been true in your life? How did it affect your life and the lives of those around you?
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Group Prayer Time:

Have 1 – 2 people in your group pray through each part of the A.C.T.S. prayer acronym.

1. **Adoration** – How is God’s character reflected in this week’s passage? Let that revelation lead you to worship and adore God.
2. **Confess** – The Word of God exposes and uncovers sin. Respond to that conviction by agreeing with what God has said about your sin.
3. **Thanksgiving** – Where do you see God working? Thank God for his faithfulness in your life and the lives of others.
4. **Supplication** – God’s Word helps us understand his purposes and plans. Ask God to give you the desires of his heart as you pray for your needs and the needs of others.

Pray for Missions:

This week in your group prayer time, have someone pray for this missions' effort. Different missions will be highlighted every week.

- **International Missions** – CRU...Campus Crusade for Christ. Hope Point supports several international missionaries who work with CRU. Mary Beth works with college students in Austria and Ryan and Lyndsay work with college students in East Asia. They spend time on college campuses building relationships with students. Many of these relationships provide opportunities for them to share the gospel. Pray Mary Beth, Ryan, and Lyndsay to have more opportunities to connect with students. Pray for their strength, that they would not grow weary in their work. Pray for the Bible studies they lead with small groups of students. Many in the small groups are interested in the Bible and the teachings of Jesus and have many questions. Pray for the students who are now followers of Christ, especially as they tell their families. Many of their families are staunchly opposed of Christianity. There is a great cost to following Christ in many countries. For more information about CRU, click this link: <https://www.cru.org>.