

THE 8TH
BEATITUDE



BLESSED

*are they who are persecuted for the sake of
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

Matthew 5:10

- 8, 9, or 10 Beatitudes? It's artificial
- **Dioko** = made fun of, ridiculed, harassed, oppressed, harmed, killed English Bible translates it as "persecuted" to express all its forms and levels
- Likely in the historical circumstances of Christ's era the better word is "harassed"

Pursuing God's righteousness



- There is a cost to pursuing righteousness
- Jewish understanding of righteousness was in behavior
- Saying ***“For the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs”*** changed the focus from human to God
- Rules-following is not a saving righteousness
- God’s righteousness is a free gift that humans cannot duplicate

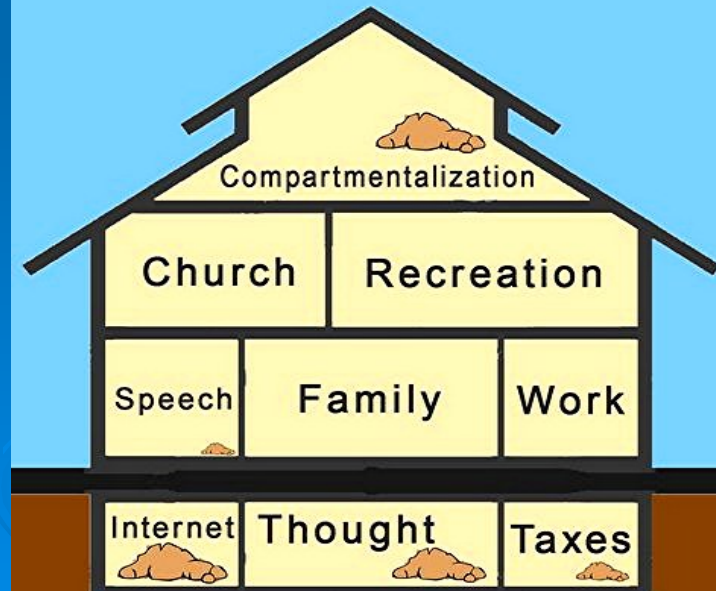
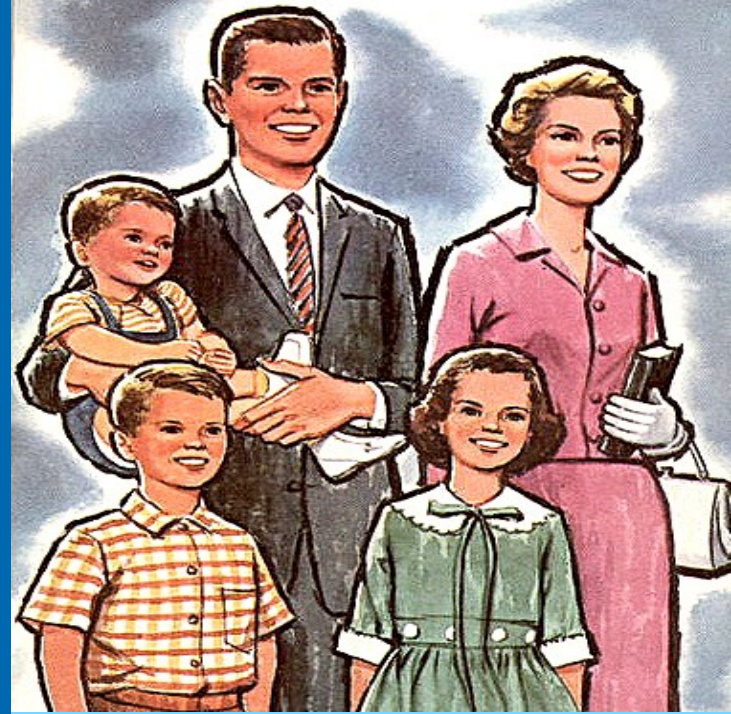
Pursuing human righteousness



THE BELIEVER'S DILEMMA

- In the 21st century Believers are starting to pay a cost
- In the 20th century the terms American and Christian were organically connected
- Today being a Christian is openly ridiculed and slandered
- Compartmentalizing of our faith is expected in our society
- Too much we keep silent for fear of confrontation
- This is similar to how it was for Jewish Believers in Christ's era

Let's all go next Sunday





- Once Jewish folks started following Yeshua they were to expect harassment by the religious leadership
- Matthew 23:29 - 34 *“Woe to you hypocritical Torah teachers and Pharisees...”*
- In *Remez*, the 8th Beatitude refers to the End Times
- Today, pursuing righteousness brings ridicule
- Later it will bring loss of freedom and death

- Vss. 11 & 12 some say are the 9th & 10th Beatitudes
- 9th seems about the same as the 8th
- In 8th the use of “persecution” is sort of mid-point in scale of troubles
- 9th (vs. 12) the use of “persecution” is lesser troubles
- Persecutions are “Because you follow Me”

PURSUING YESHUA IS PURSUING RIGHTEOUSNESS

MATT. 5:11 - 12

BLESSED!



for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
for they will be comforted.
for they will inherit the earth.
for they will be filled.
for they will be shown mercy.
for they will see God.
for they will be called children of God.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Rejoice !!

*Your Best Life
Now!*



"In this life, you will have trouble." -Jesus



- Yeshua says all who follow Him will be rewarded in Heaven
- Example: the prophets of old
- Rejoicing is the proper mental attitude even when we're shunned and excluded
- Jews were not thinking in terms of "going to Heaven when we die"
- Death was something to be feared and mourned, not celebrated
- Christ's audience thought the reward would happen in this life

“...salt for the Land...”

- Salt is a metaphor of something larger
- Salt is a general description of Christ's Jewish audience
- Be prepared to take this in the *P'shat* and the *Remez* senses
- *Eretz Israel* = Land of Israel
- *Eretz* can mean “earth”, but this is not the proper context here
- Western Greek thinking vs. ancient Eastern thinking (the Bible)





- Meaning of salt changed from Abraham, to Moses, to Yeshua's day
- Salt was valuable and central to life, and it was in very early times a medium of currency
- Used to flavor food, preserve meat, heal wounds, sacrifices had to be salted, an element of purification, and more



“...salt...for people to trample on....”

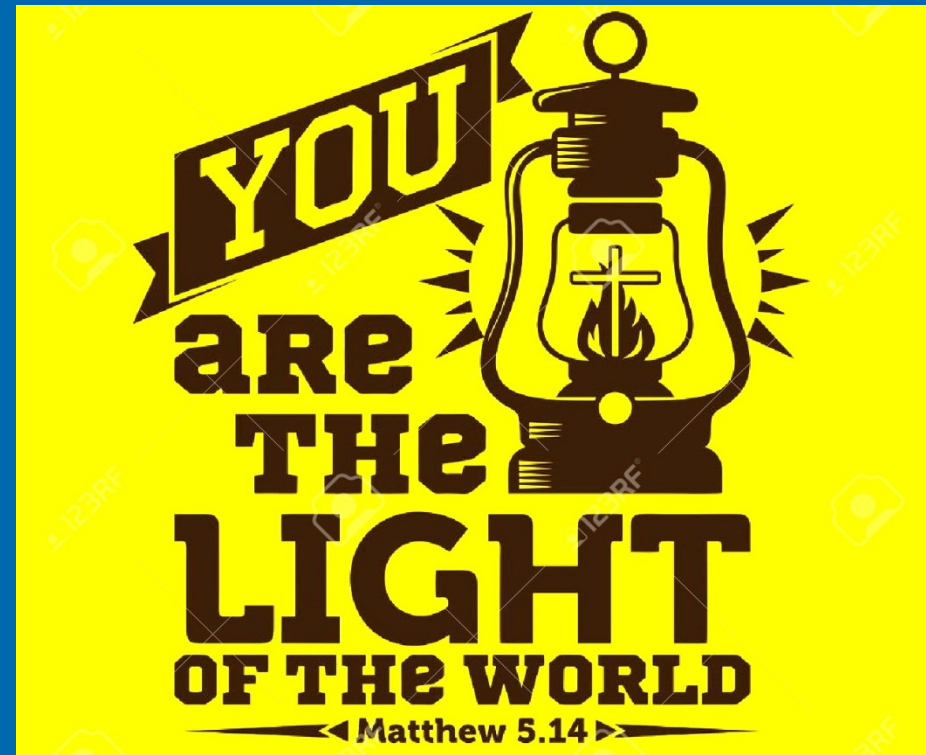
- In Christ's era salt was cheap and available
- Largest use was for rubbing meat to absorb blood before sacrifice
- Waste salt used to poison the soil of roads and paths to keep them clear
- **Moraino** = become foolish
- Idea is that if salt becomes contaminated then it becomes useless

CORRUPTING OUR FAITH IN GOD



- **P'shat sense:** Salt is good, desired, needed
- Jews in the huge crowd are expected to influence their people in a positive way
- If they are corrupted by false religious doctrines and by Rome's pagan culture, they will become useless for God
- **Remez sense:** The scope widens from "the Land" to the entire earth
- A warning: Jews have the opportunity to be salt to the world, but if they become corrupted they will become useless in God's hand

- Matt.5:14 – 16 is complementary to the metaphor of salt
- Isaiah 49:1 – 6
- Whether *P'shat* or *Remez* this is a call to action!
- The goal is that other people... Gentiles... also come to faith
- Truest evangelism happens by doing good deeds
- Words alone cheapened when not accompanied by our actions



BELIEVERS!

**DO
SOMETHING
GOOD**





OR



DON'T DIM THE LIGHT !!

- After Yeshua says to be a light, He says don't cover it up
- What good is such a faith if not shared?
- What good is such a faith if it bears no fruit?
- Chrysostom *“....first you are salt, then you are light....”*