

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10

Use a search engine to research “countries where Christians are persecuted”. Read a couple of the articles and then summarize your findings.

Read Matthew 10:34-39 and explain to the best of your ability how Jesus’ teaching on that passage and John 14:27 can both be true.

Read each of the passages and record what Jesus, Paul, Peter, and the group of apostles said, did, and or taught about persecution.

Jesus (Matthew 5:10-12 and John 15:18-21)

Paul (II Corinthians 11:24-30 with 12:9,10 and II Timothy 3:12)

Peter (I Peter 4:12-19)

Group of apostles (Acts 5:17-42)

Thought questions for discussion:

1. Why do you think that American Christians are apathetic to the terrible persecution of Christians in other countries?
2. Have you witnessed persecution and or criticism of Christians in the United States?
3. Have you personally been persecuted or ridiculed for your faith in Christ?
4. Do you think that enduring persecution for your faith is a true test of believing God and knowing Jesus?
5. What Bible passage, from this lesson, sticks out to you the most and explain why it does so.