



Your Happy Place



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Date: March 16, 2025

Sermon Series: Your Happy Place: Living the Beatitudes of Jesus

Sermon Title: The Happy and the Harassed

Scripture: Matthew 5:10-12

Speaker: Dr. Ron Jones

1. Read Matthew 5:10-12. Have you ever been persecuted or harassed for your faith in Jesus Christ? How can you distinguish between suffering for righteousness and suffering for reasons that are not aligned with God's kingdom?
2. Pastor Ron describes persecution as a spectrum, from mild hostility to extreme physical harm. How can we prepare ourselves for different forms of persecution, such as ridicule, discrimination, or more severe forms?
3. Jesus tells us to "rejoice and be glad" in the face of persecution. How can we find joy in such circumstances, and what role does the promise of an eternal reward play in this perspective? Consider Paul and Silas in Acts 16.
4. Read Acts 8:1-3 and consider how persecution helped spread the early church beyond Jerusalem. How can we view our own challenges or discomforts as opportunities to further God's kingdom?
5. Paul writes about knowing Christ through "the fellowship of his sufferings" (Philippians 3:10). What does this idea mean to you, and how might experiencing persecution deepen your relationship with Jesus?
6. What is your biggest takeaway from this study of the Beatitudes?