

Thornbury Baptist Church
Matthew Teaching Series
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: November 17th 2024

Talk title: The Life God Blesses III

Passage: Matthew 5:10-12

Speaker: Katie Fry

Discussion Questions

1. In the Sermon On The Mount, Jesus introduces his followers to the idea that His Kingdom is an 'upside-down Kingdom'. Read the Beatitudes in full (Matthew 5:3-12). How do these verses present an 'upside-down Kingdom'? If the Kingdom is like this, what does it tell us about what the King, Jesus, is like?

2. Paul writes: *'everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted'* (2 Timothy 3:12). Why do you think this is the case? What is it about a life lived in obedience to Jesus Christ that is so inflammatory? You could think about this both across history and in the full range of Christian experience in the present day, from the extreme persecution of hidden believers living under hostile regimes, to the negative perception of Christians in the 'Post-Christian West'.

3. Paul writes to the Colossian Christians, *'Remember my chains'* (Colossians 4:18). We are called to support our suffering brothers and sisters in prayer. The Open Doors website (opendoorsuk.org) has lots of resources to help us pray for and support the Persecuted Church, including their annual World Watch List. Choose one or two countries from the top 50 and spend some time together praying for Christians there. The website will give you specific pointers for each country. You can also pray for the work of Sat-7 (sat7uk.org) and Elam (elam.com): two of our TBC mission partners who work in this area, in the Middle East/North Africa and Iran respectively.

4. Treasuring the future hope we have when Jesus returns enables believers to face persecution with gladness, and indeed all kinds of suffering. Look back over the Beatitudes. What kind of a picture do they give us of what life will be like in the New Heavens and the New Earth that Jesus promises? Which aspect in particular excites you most? How will treasuring that enable you to experience joy even in persecution or suffering?

Takeaway: What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?