



## Week of Mar 19 - a

### Scripture: Mt 5:10-12

**Main Idea:** The final 2 beatitudes are the most challenging. Jesus taught the crowd that they should be glad to be treated badly for their faith, because their reward in heaven would be so great. No one enjoys being treated wrongly, but Jesus prepares his followers that if this happens, God sees it and will bless us greatly if we are faithful.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** If you stand up for what is right and follow Jesus' teachings will everyone be nice and follow Jesus with you? Why not?

**Grade school:** This is the last step in learning what a righteous person can be. It will divide people and families. Will you choose God or your family? If you choose God will your family always be on the same side? They might call you names and try to trick you into doing wrong things. God sees these things and will bless you when you follow him.

**Teen:** How hard do you think it was for the audience to hear and comprehend since most were constantly treated badly by the Romans and, at times, the Jewish leaders? How can you rejoice, and be glad about being treated badly for your faith?

**Adult:** Imagine being Noah or Columbus or the Wright Brothers or anyone else who had a belief and was later proved to be right. It is hard to be calm when we are treated with hostility. Why is it worse when we did nothing wrong – or cannot be disproved? Do you ever want to go back and say, "Told you?" Have you ever been mistreated for your spiritual beliefs? How did you react? Looking back, would you handle the situation differently? What did you learn from going through it? It has been asked, "if you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? How much time do we spend in His presence outside attendance of worship services? In prayer? In reading His Word? In meditating on how our beliefs should change our life and how we live?"

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

For God to give us strength and courage to be Christ-like during times we are persecuted for our faith, and to have joy knowing we are pleasing to Him.

### March Memory Verse:

**Psalm 9:1 (ESV)**

**I will give thanks to the LORD  
with my whole heart; I will  
recount all of your wonderful  
deeds.**



## Week of Mar 19 - b

### Scripture: Mt 5:13-16

**Main Idea:** Jesus taught that Christians should not hide their faith. We are to let our lights shine. In a world full of selfishness and sin, God's people should stand out in a wonderful way. Our goal in doing this is that people will notice and give glory to God.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** Jesus tells us to be the light for the world. Do you know what that means? (A: it means to be nice and polite, and help others when we can) How do you shine your light for Jesus?

**Grade school:** Christians are called to change things in the world and point the way to Jesus. We can impact the world for Christ in amazing ways when we follow Him. God calls us to be the light. This means that God wants us to tell people about Him and share His grace with others. You can be a "saltshaker" for Jesus! Be the salt in your friendships. Treat each other with respect, honesty, and be peaceful to one another. When you have a friend like that, or you are a friend like that, you can easily share God's word.

**Teen:** What are some ways you can live out your faith at school? With friends & family? Is it difficult to follow Jesus' instruction in this area? If so, why?

**Adult:** As a follow on to the quote (from previous devo) about having enough evidence to convict, do those around you know you profess to be a Christian? First, consider those close to us...family. They probably know you are a Christian, but do they see you walk as a Christian in your daily life? If they gave evidence in your trial, what would they say? Now the harder side – folks further away, like coworkers and people we encounter in our lives, like the clerk in the store when we're in a hurry? Would they know that there was something different about you? Would they see a behavior in you that isn't there in many of the others they see daily? If the answer to some of those questions is no, the more important question is what do you need to do to change that?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

For God to help us let our light shine and glorify him in how we live.

### March Memory Verse:

**Psalm 9:1 (ESV)**

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with my whole heart; I will  
recount all of your wonderful  
deeds.**