

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2007- DAY 1

### "HOW YOU GONNA WIN WHEN YOU AIN'T RIGHT WITHIN?"

Today we are going to talk about what being "right within" means. What do YOU think it means? (allow for answers)

(Ask for volunteers to act out the skit, "Something just isn't right.")

- 1- What was odd about this skit?
- 2- If we are going to open our minds to truly understanding what it means to be "right within", we need to first accept that being right within means standing out from what is normal in the world.
- 3- Being "right within" means living a RIGHTEOUS life according to God, which leads to HOLINESS- becoming like God.

Let's make sure we understand what the words "righteous" and "holy" mean:

- 1- To be RIGHTEOUS, according to Scripture, means to be declared innocent by God. It means to obey His commandments.
- 2- The word HOLY comes from the Greek word "agios", which means against the world. We are called by Christ to be like Him, not to become who the world wants us to be.

St. Paul makes it very clear in Romans 6:19: "For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness." Being a slave of righteousness (obeying the Lord's commandments) will lead you to holiness. So to be

"right within" means to be who God created you to be- His child who lives as He instructs you to because He loves you.

If I asked you all to tell me the difference between right and wrong, I bet you could do it very easily. I'm going to start a sentence, and I'd like you to finish it.

(Let the children fill in the blanks out loud to these questions)

It is wrong to \_\_\_\_\_

It is good to \_\_\_\_\_

It is so great that you all know these things, but there is so much more to being holy than just not doing the things that we all know are bad. Being holy means having a pure life- living a life that is pleasing to God in everything that we do. What does it mean to be "pure"? It means to be clean...in our case, to be clean and unstained by the world.

Let's go through why we should be holy, how we can be holy, and what holiness or purity does for us:

1- WHY BE HOLY? 1 Peter 1:15 straightforwardly commands us: "as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct;" Peter stresses this when he quotes Leviticus in verse 16: "You shall be holy, for I am holy." It is that simple. We are called to be holy because we are called to be Christ like, and Christ who is God is holy. God gave us a great gift! He created us to become like Him and be one with Him if we do as He commands us to do. We need to accept that gift and show God that we are thankful for it by loving Him and living as Christ did.

2- HOW TO BE HOLY: This is given to us in Psalm 119:9: "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word." Verse 11 of this Psalm states that "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against

you." Knowing God's word that is revealed to us in the Bible is the best defense against unholiness. If we study and know how God wants us to live, we will be able to avoid sinning against Him. It also takes practice to develop good habits in your life. Replace bad habits with good ones and you will practice holiness!

- 3- WHAT HOLINESS DOES- In 1 Peter we find clear direction on how we should live. In Verse 13 it says that you should "set your hope fully on the grace to be given us on Jesus's triumphant return." In everything we do, we should keep in mind that Christ is coming again to judge and to reward us. If we keep pure, we are promised a great reward in heaven! What is keeping pure? We are called to love each other, and to free our lives of **cruelty, jealousy of others, JUST BLUE-hypocrisy (two-facedness), and insult** of every kind. Can you give me an example of cruelty? jealousy of others? hypocrisy? insult? As you can see, all these things are hurtful to you and others. Anything that could even hurt another person is far from holiness. Remember that we are not on our own in trying to live a holy life. 1 Peter 2:3 reminds us that, "...the Lord is good." God will help us to become the people He created us to be.

So being holy means being different. God wants you to be different! Not just in front of people to impress them, but from the inside out. If you are holy on the inside, it will show on the outside.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF BEING HOLY FROM THE INSIDE OUT:

- 1- HOW YOU DRESS. What you wear should show this holiness. What are some examples of things we shouldn't wear and why? *Clothes with negative sayings or people that are bad examples on them, clothes that show too much of your body, clothes that bring anyone away*

*from God. WHY???* Because it's hurtful to others to set a bad example to them, or to bring them into sin by the things that we wear.

- 2- THE THINGS THAT YOU LAUGH AT. If you laugh at racist jokes, people will think you are a racist. If you laugh when others get hurt, people won't think you care about others. If you laugh at things that God takes seriously, people will wonder if you take God seriously. What you should do instead is pay attention to others and look for opportunities to love. You can't love God and treat people badly. Loving God means treating all people- whether you know them or not- like they are special to you because they are special to God.
- 3- HOW YOU SPEAK. How will people know that God is in your heart if bad words come out of your mouth? How will people know that God is in your heart if you get angry easily? How will people know that God is in your heart if gossip/talk badly about others? Show people on the outside what is on the inside.

Holiness must come from the inside out! Make sure what you are trying to be on the inside always shows on the outside. 😊

For the rest of the week, we are going to make sure we understand who Christ blesses us to be by studying the "Beatitudes". The word "Beatitude" comes from the Latin word "beatus" which means, "happy, fortunate, blissful". The 8 Beatitudes are commandments that the Lord gives to us, that lead us to eternal bliss! Everlasting joy! They were given by Christ to his disciples in Matthew Ch. 5. Verses 1-2 begin like this, "*Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them.*" And we will continue tomorrow... 😊

## SOMETHING JUST ISN'T "RIGHT"!

The scene begins with Mom and Dad sitting at the table. Four plates are set up on the floor. The Son and Daughter are off to the side.

MOM: Come on kids! It's time for dinner!

DAUGHTER: (yells from off stage) I'm coming Mom! I just need to brush my hair! (brushes her hair with a toothbrush.)

SON: I'll be there in a second Mom! Just have to get my socks and shoes on. (puts socks and shoes on his hands)

DAD: Well I'm hungry. I'm going to start eating. (Dad begins to eat his food with a spatula and an ice cream scooper)

MOM: I'm with you, honey. (Mom begins to eat her food with scissors and a pen)

Daughter and Son enter and sit around the table.

DAUGHTER: OK. We're here!

SON: Wow, Mom, this looks great!

Daughter begins to eat her dinner with her toothbrush, and Son begins to eat with the shoes on his hands.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2007- DAY 2

Review these points from Day 1:

- 1- What does it mean to be "right within"?
- 2- What does it mean to live a righteous life?
- 3- What does it mean to be holy?

Today we are going to begin discussing the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes lay out for us the life Christ wants us to live and the attitudes He wants us to have. Do you remember what the word "Beatitude" means? *Truly happy, blissful, fortunate, leading to eternal bliss.* One of the first reflections on the Beatitudes came from St. Gregory of Nyssa. He described the Beatitudes this way:

*"Beatitude is a possession of all things held to be good, from which nothing is absent that a good desire may want. Perhaps the meaning of beatitude may become clearer to us if it is compared with its opposite. Now the opposite of beatitude is misery. Misery means being afflicted unwillingly with painful sufferings."*

Important things to know about the Beatitudes:

- 1- The Beatitudes begin Christ's famous "Sermon on the Mount". He is instructing thousands of His disciples who are hungry to hear His teachings.
- 2- It is interesting to note that Christ *"went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them"* Matthew 5:1-2. We see this image here of the King on His throne with His people below Him. Christ is the King, the Judge. When His Word is spoken, we must hear it and obey.
- 3- Each Beatitude begins with the word "blessed". Being blessed means that *"you aren't lost- you are on the right*

*path the Creator intends you to be on" ~Jim Forrest. When Christ calls something "Blessed", He is saying that this is what is right. You are on the right track if you are living this way.*

- 4- The Beatitudes are in a certain order because each one leads to the next. You must accomplish the first before taking the second step.

So let's take the first step: "BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

We are going to demonstrate what it means to be "Poor in Spirit".

- 1- Ask for 2 volunteers that are willing to be brave and take a risk. If time permits, you can do this multiple times.
- 2- They will do a Trust Fall in front of the group. (Katrina will demonstrate this to each teacher).

Ask the following questions after the activity:

- 1- How important is it that the person that is falling trusts the other person? What are some reasons why the person would choose not to fall?
- 2- How important is it that the other person catches them? What if they don't?

Jim Forrest says this about being "POOR IN SPIRIT": "It is my awareness that I cannot save myself, that I am basically defenseless, that neither money nor power will spare me from suffering a death, and that no matter what I achieve and acquire in this life, it will be far less than I wanted." To be POOR IN SPIRIT is to realize that I need nothing more than God's help and mercy. I can do without all my stuff because there is only one thing that is needful, and that is putting my life in God's hands.

The average American worships wealth. Oscar Wilde in his play *An Ideal Husband* wrote, "The God of this century is wealth. To succeed one must have wealth."

Mother Teresa, on the other hand, said, "I do not ask for success. I pray for faithfulness." She only owned 2 saris (her clothes), a rosary (prayer beads), a Bible and a few prayer books. We know her not for what she possessed but for what she did—the many years she spent caring for dying people who had no one else and pregnant mothers with no means to take care of their children. Jim Forrest said, "She regarded the greatest poverty not as something material but as lack of faith and being closed in on oneself."

Based on what Mother Teresa said, what would you say real wealth is? *Putting your life in God's hands by focusing on the needs of others. Being "Poor in Spirit" so that you may have the "Kingdom of Heaven."*

- 1- Ask the children to name some possessions that they are attached to.
- 2- In truth, if these things were stolen, broken, would it make you less successful? Would it make you less of a follower of Christ?
- 3- According to Mother Teresa, what does a follower of Christ focus on? *The needs of others. If you are focused on what others need, your own poverty won't concern you. If you have more clothes than you need, why do you still have them?*

So does this mean we should all sell our houses and go live in the desert somewhere? *No. We just have to detach ourselves from the things we possess and make sure our possessions aren't what we think our life is about. The reality is that how we relate to*

*material objects "reveals who we are, the condition of our soul, and whether we are citizens of heaven or hell." ~Jim Forrest*

The most important question to ask yourself is:

- 1- What is ultimately the most important thing in your life?
  - a- Your own comfort and reputation?
  - b- How important you are to those around you?
  - c- *OR the love of God and caring for those around you?*

Tell everyone to sit in a circle before you read this story:

A saint of recent times, the Russian Orthodox nun Mother Maria Skobtsova, lived in Paris and opened her house to anyone in need. Her assistance to Jews during the time of the Nazi occupation led to her arrest and later to death in the gas chamber. She saw each person as "the very icon of God incarnate (in the flesh) in the world" and sought "to venerate God unconditionally in everyone in need." Her personal possessions fit into one suitcase; her bedroom was a corner in the basement.

Look around at the people in this room. What is more important to you? Your favorite shirt? Your I pod? Or the needs of those you are looking at?

- 1- Ask the children if anyone has a real need they want to express.
- 2- Ask them if anyone feels too attached to something and wants to try and focus more on others.

As Mother Maria said, you serve God when you serve others. Do you serve God or something else?

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2007- DAY 3

Review these points from Day 2:

- 1- If you are "poor in spirit", what are you aware of?
- 2- How should you relate to your material possessions?
- 3- What did Mother Maria of Paris say that each person is?  
*The very icon of God incarnate in this world*

Today we are taking the second step on the ladder, which is unable to be separated from being POOR IN SPIRIT. In the second Beatitude the Lords says, "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN." Let's see how the first step leads to the second:

- Being poor in spirit leads you to a complete and desperate dependency on God.
- Having that desperate need for God leads you to recognize when you are off track, when you are not leading a life pleasing to Him.
- And recognizing when you are off track leads you to MOURN for your sins.

Tears of true repentance cleanse you and renew you because, as Christ says, BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED, or forgiven.

In order to MOURN for your sins, you need to be able to see yourself clearly. You need to "come to yourself" when you are off track, like the Prodigal Son did: The Prodigal Son left the safety of his father's house and went away to a far country and spent all the money that his father gave him! He even lived in dirt with the pigs! One day, he realized that it was better to be in his father's house, so he went back home and his father was happy to see him and welcomed him back.

- How do you think this story shows us MOURNING and COMFORTING?
- Only God can keep us safe and give us what we need to live. We need to be able to see when we have left safety, so we can repent (change what we are doing and get back on track). *Can you think of one time when you realized you were wrong and changed because of it?*

Now I am going to give you an opportunity to really think about who you are as a person. Get into pairs and ask each other the following questions:

Groups 3 & 4:

- 1- If I asked your friends about you, what would they say?
- 2- What was the last thing you regret doing?
- 3- What do you think you are good at? What do you think you need to work on about yourself?

Groups 1 & 2:

- 1- What do you like to do?
- 2- When was the last time you said sorry to someone?
- 3- What do you think you are good at? What would you like to learn to do?

Come back together as a group and talk about these examples of true MOURNING from *The Ladder of the Beatitudes* by Jim Forrest.

- 1- The repentant woman who washed the feet of Christ with her tears was mourning the damage her actions had caused others and herself, bearers of God's image. (Luke 7:38)
- 2- There are the tears of the Apostle Peter when the rooster crowed after he denied Christ 3 times. Hours before, Peter had nearly killed a man in his passion to defend his master.

Since then he had been too afraid to admit he even knew Him. Then at last a flood of tears- for Christ's suffering, and for himself for having been a coward and a liar.

Let us pray that we are all are so focused on Christ that we are able to see when we are off track, and get back on! Let us all see ourselves as St. Paul saw himself: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners- of whom I am first." (1 Timothy 1:15)

From MOURNING, we are led to the 3<sup>rd</sup> step: MEEKNESS. The Lord says, "BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH."

What does it mean to be MEEK? *Meek is translated from the Greek word "praus", which was used to describe a wild animal who had been tamed and made gentle. They never want revenge and are always peaceful. MOST IMPORTANTLY, a meek person wants God's guidance and is never bitter about being obedient.*

Christ himself, the Creator of the Universe who walks on water and brings the dead to life, says about himself, "I am meek and humble of heart." (Matthew 11:29) Let us look at the MEEKNESS of Christ:

- Christ was born in a cave meant to shelter animals. He owned nothing more than His clothes. He was one of the homeless: "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head" (Matthew 8:20)
- Christ's first miracle-changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana- was done in meek submission to His mother telling Him it was time.
- Before Christ was captured in the Garden of Gethsemane He asked His Father, "If it is possible, take this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want" (Matthew

26:39). This is the heart of what meekness is: TO LIVE GOD'S WILL RATHER THAN YOUR OWN.

The MEEK WILL INHERIT THE EARTH because they don't desire to inherit a lot of earthly property. They will, instead receive God's blessings on earth because of their desire to live simply. St. John Chrysostom observed that, "The meek man is thought to lose everything, but Christ promises the contrary saying, 'No, it is the meek- he who is not boastful- who possesses the goods in safety, while the one who doesn't submit to God shall often lose his all and even lose his life."

*So what does this mean for you? Why is living without complaining the best choice?*

- You and those around you will have more joy than sorrow. Desiring your own way only causes pain and frustration.
- Most people are unhappy because they constantly are unsatisfied with their situation. If never choose to be bitter, everything will seem sweet. 😊
- We practice obedience to God by submitting to the people that God puts in authority over us to guide us. If we can be obedient to our teachers, parents, priests, police, etc., we will find it simple to be obedient to God. Unless someone is asking you to disobey God or hurt others, just obey them.

END WITH THIS GAME:

- 1- There will be a bag of challenging instructions on pieces of paper.
- 2- Ask for volunteers to pick one out. They must accomplish what is on the paper they pick. This is to demonstrate that the meek person obeys without complaining.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2007- DAY 4

Review these points from Day 3:

- 1- What does it mean to MOURN and be COMFORTED?
- 2- We said that in order to MOURN when you should, you need to be able to see what very clearly?
- 3- What are some examples from Scripture of true MOURNING?
- 4- How does Christ show His MEEKNESS?
- 5- The heart of MEEKNESS is to: TO LIVE \_\_\_\_\_ RATHER THAN \_\_\_\_\_.

So far, we have gone from POOR IN SPIRIT, to MOURNING, to MEEKNESS, and now to HUNGERING AND THIRSTING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED."

- Do you remember what it means to be RIGHTEOUS?
- The Lord wants us to HUNGER and THIRST for it. I'm sure that some of us think we have experienced real hunger...maybe some of us are hungry now... but none of us even have an idea of what it means to truly be hungry and thirsty until we live without food and water. ***To truly be hungry and thirsty for righteousness is to want to be right in God's eyes as urgently as a person in the desert that wants a glass of water or a child in a refugee camp that wants a crust of bread.***
- Some people become miserable when they don't get what they want. In reality, most desires will make you miserable, because even when you get what you want, you move on to wanting more of it or wanting the next thing.

- **The hunger for righteousness is the only appetite that Christ blesses. Not to want others possessions or recognition for anything, but to desire only the Kingdom of God. If we don't take charge of our hungers and thirsts, they will take control of us.**

Imagine a world where every human being only hungered for God. Everyone served each other and never brought any pain to anyone. How would the world be different? What wouldn't exist anymore? *Murder, envy, jealousy, theft, poverty, starvation, etc.*

We know the poor are often hungry and that many starve, but are the rich really FILLED? St. Leo the Great wrote:

It is commonly thought that it is the rich who are made full because of their greed. No, Christ teaches, it is just the opposite. We are satisfied only from righteousness. So long as you live righteously, have no fear of poverty, do not tremble before hunger. The greedy are the very persons who lose everything, just as one who is in love with righteousness possesses the goods of all men in safety.

The truth is, we will only be FILLED if we let go of our jealousy of others, desire for money and stuff, and focus on how we can serve others. Otherwise, it will always feel like something is missing.

- Isn't it funny how the things we are desperate the most for really won't get us anywhere in life? What are you desperate for that you think you shouldn't be?
- One who hungers for righteousness lives a life of service to others. Proverbs 29:7 says, "The righteous know the rights of the poor; the wicked have no such understanding".

Which brings us to our 5<sup>th</sup> step: BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.

The 4<sup>th</sup> step flows right into the 5<sup>th</sup> step because being TRULY RIGHTEOUS means that you are TRULY MERCIFUL to others.

ACTIVITY: Ask 2 people to come up to demonstrate what MERCY is. Have them play the game of MERCY. (Katrina will explain.)

- As you can see, when someone needs MERCY, they are in need of being saved from something. Hunger, thirst, pain, homelessness, etc. Everyone is in need of something. It is our responsibility to keep our eyes open to what people need around us, whoever they are.
- Proverbs 21:13 says, *"He who closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself cry out and not be heard."* If you don't listen when someone is crying out for help, then the Lord will not listen to your cry.
- Remember that "poor" doesn't just refer to money. To be poor is to lack something. Some people lack company, knowledge, peace, etc. Notice what people need!

ACTIVITY: Who is this Person? (pictures will be provided)

- 1- Ask the children what they think of each person. What kind of person are they? What do they do?
- 2- After you go through all the people, tell them who they really are:
  - a. Show the picture of the overweight woman. She is a mom, she works full time, and she's a diabetic who swims more than a mile every day.
  - b. Show the picture of the Hispanic woman. She is a college graduate who works full time for a publishing company.
  - c. Show the picture of the black man. He is a rapper, a writer, and youth worker.
  - d. Show the picture of the blonde woman. She was the director of marketing for a publishing company, and ran successful marketing campaigns for some of the bestselling books in the Christian market.

3- Discuss:

- a. When we make judgments about people, it prevents us from loving them. Love is action! Love is MERCY!
- b. God gave every person their value. We must treat every person equally because that is the way God sees us all.

4- THE MERCY WE GIVE OTHERS CAN'T EVEN COMPARE TO GOD'S MERCY. Earlier we said that those that need MERCY need to be saved from something. We say "Lord Have Mercy" during our services more than we say anything else. What are we in need of being saved from? *We need to be saved from the consequences of our sins. Only God can save us and bring us to His Kingdom. We need to be saved from death, and be given eternal life.*

Which brings us to our 6<sup>TH</sup> step and final step for the day:  
BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.

Now you are going to teach me what this one is all about. I am going to give you 3 hints to help you figure it out.

- 1- To be PURE is to be Holy
- 2- Your HEART is the center of who you are, what your life revolves around.
- 3- To SEE in Scripture means to know, to understand. For example, "I see what you are talking about."

*They should get to this understanding: A pure heart hungers for what is right, is not divided or torn between good and evil, is merciful and loving. Purification of the heart is the endless struggle of seeking a more God-centered life. And to see God is the joyful result of this! To see God is to enter into the great joy of God's love, to know Him, understand His will, and to experience Him and His blessings in this life. It is to truly live "on Earth as it is in Heaven."*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2007: DAY 5

We have come to step 7! BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.

Jim Forrest says that:

"Only after ascending the first six rungs of the ladder of the beatitudes do we reach the beatitude of the peacemaker, for only a person who has taken all the steps that purify the heart can help rebuild broken bridges, pull down walls of division, assist us in recovering a small degree of our lost communion with God and with one another."

In other words, those that are capable of bringing peace to others must first be working towards purifying themselves.

- PEACE is also necessary for worship. The Liturgy begins with the priest's announcement, "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," then the words that immediately follow are: *"In peace let us pray to the Lord."* Father Lev Gillet explained:

"Those who will take part in the Divine Liturgy should rid their minds of all confusion, all temptations, all obsession with worldly cares, and all hostile feelings towards any other person, and all personal anxiety (worry). They should come before God in a state of inner calmness, trusting attentiveness, and single-minded concentration on 'the one thing needful' Lk. 10:42."

We must begin our worship with inner peace and we must be at peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ. And finally, at the end of the service, the priest tells us to "depart in peace." The reason is clear. We have been privileged to take part in the Eucharist, and we are returned to the world to bring Christ's peace to others, some who hardly know who Christ is.

- PEACEMAKERS shall be called CHILDREN OF GOD because God's children are one united people who have no divisions amongst them.

- PEACEMAKERS shall be called CHILDREN OF GOD because God's children should resemble their Father who IS PEACE. Christ is the Prince of Peace. To say a person is a child of God is another way to say that he or she is Godly.
- PEACEMAKERS shall be called CHILDREN OF GOD because those who help establish God's peace- whether preventing war, providing care to those in need, putting two friends back on speaking terms, are assisting in God's activity in our world.

St. John Chrysostom says in his sermon on the Beatitudes:

"For this became the work of the Only Begotten: to unite the divided, and to reconcile (bring together) the alienated (separated, cast out)."

Christ calls on his followers to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them so that we may be "children of your Father in Heaven." Which brings us to the 8<sup>th</sup> and final step:

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN THEY INSULT YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER EVERY KIND OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY BECAUSE OF ME. REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN, FOR SO MEN PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.

- Those who wish to bring the PEACE of Christ to the world, will be persecuted for their efforts. What does it mean to be PERSECUTED? *To be treated badly because of your beliefs.*

In St. Paul's second letter to Timothy, he writes:

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all, who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while

evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ~2 TIMOTHY 3:10-15

- Paul is telling Timothy that he has seen how Paul has been what? *Been persecuted*
- Paul says that the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ him from all his persecutions. *Rescued*
- Paul tells Timothy that those who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Why do you think that is? *Because there will be a lot people and things that will distract you from committing your life to God. There will also be many people that don't want to come to God themselves that will make you feel wrong for your decision... but God will take care of you and give you strength to do what is right, if you ask Him.*
- What are some persecutions you have faced in your life?
- Paul encourages Timothy to continue living how he has been taught when persecutions come. What can we learn from Paul's advice to Timothy? *To stay strong and listen to the instructions of the Scriptures. This is how we will find salvation!*

The Beatitudes have instructed us. Christ has taught us what a Blessed life is. We are His children and must look to these teachings and commit our lives to be who we were created to be, so that we can serve others. When we are persecuted, we must stay strong and find peace that OUR REWARD IN HEAVEN IS GREAT!

*USE THE REST OF THE CLASS TO REVIEW. THANK YOU!*