

## **THE BEATITUDES. No. #8 - "PERSECUTED"**

**Matthew 5:10 – 12 (read it)**

**Read: II Timothy 3:12 - Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."**

**DEFINITION OF PERSECUTION: "Hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs."**

**BIBLICAL DEFINITION: "To harass or punish in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict specifically to cause to suffer because of belief."**

### **BIBLE EXAMPLES OF PERSECUTION:**

**1) STEPHEN (Acts 6:8-15 / Acts 7:51-60)**

**2) JOSEPH (Genesis 37:8 - brothers hated him) Genesis 39:17-20 – Potiphar's wife falsely accuses Joseph)**

**3) JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 9:7-9 / Matt. 14:1-12 / Mark 6:14 – 29 - beheaded)**

**4) JESUS (Almost thrown over a cliff – Luke 4:28-30)**

**COMMON FORMS OF PERSECUTION:**

**1. *Religious***

**2. *Racism***

**3. *Political***

**4. *Financial***

**5. *Educational***

**NOTE: Most persecution in the Bible was religious.**

**1. Beating (Isaiah 50:6 – Jesus)**

**2. Stoning (Acts 14:19 – Paul)**

**3. Mocking (Luke 23:11 – Herod to Jesus)**

**4. Insults (Psalm 69:9 – Possibly King David's words)**

5. Slander (Revelation 2:9 & 10 – Church of Smyrna)
6. Ostracism (John 9:11 – Blind man's parents & healed man)
7. Intimidation & Threats (Acts 4:21 & 29 – Early church survival)
8. Imprisonment (Mark 6:17 – John The Baptist)
9. Exile (Revelation 1:9 – Apostle John)
10. Death (Genesis 4:8 – Abel)

### **BIBLE VERSES ON PERSECUTION;**

**li John 15:9 & 10 & 18 / Mark 10:29 & 30 / Revelation 2:10 & 11 / II Cor. 12:9 & 10 / Luke 6:22 / Ro. 8:35 / Matt. 5:11 / Ro. 12:14**