

# Jesus' Eighth Lesson



“Blessed are those who are  
persecuted for righteousness’ sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”



What is persecution? Christ was persecuted when He was crucified on the cross. The early Christians were persecuted and killed because they believed in Christ.

It’s awesome to think about Christians who were persecuted throughout the centuries and how they made it possible for us to practice our faith today.

It is amazing to think about how Christ, who is God, allowed Himself to be crucified. He did not yell at or threaten those who persecuted Him. He suffered for **us**. And He showed us how He wants us to bear suffering for Him.

Sometimes in our daily lives we are persecuted. If we try to follow God’s commandments, people might make fun of us. If we pray in public, or profess a belief in God, or are kind to someone that others do not like, some people might poke fun of us. This is persecution for righteous behavior.



Jesus wants us to be meek, and to respond to this kind of persecution with loving kindness — but we should never reject Him or say we don't believe in Him.

Standing up for Christ is the right thing to do.

There are small ways to do this every day. Asking the Holy Spirit to help you recall information before taking a test is recognizing the power of God. (That is so, however, only if you studied and had the information to begin with!) Reading about and studying your faith is standing up for God. Living your faith is also standing up for God. Being charitable to others is doing God's work.

If we stand up for what God teaches, we are **promised** the kingdom of heaven!



***Blessed are they who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times!  
(Psalm 106:3)***