



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart



**HOW TO REJOICE WHEN
YOU ARE REJECTED!**



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February 6, 2024

HOW TO REJOICE WHEN YOU ARE REJECTED (Matthew 5:10–12)

Matthew 5:10–12 (NIV2011)

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



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Matthew 5:10–12 (MSG)

10 "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

11 "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.

12 You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble

Matthew 5:10–12 (AMP)

10 Blessed and happy and enviably fortunate and spiritually prosperous (in the state in which the born-again child of God enjoys and finds satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of his outward conditions) are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake (for being and doing right), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!

11 Blessed (happy, to be envied, and spiritually prosperous—with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of your outward conditions) are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account.

12 Be glad and supremely joyful, for your reward in heaven is great (strong and intense), for in this same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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One reason for unhappiness in the world is many people have the misconception they would be happy if everyone liked them. Even if that were true, we can never make everyone like us. Jesus was perfect, the epitome of love and integrity, and not everyone liked Him. Jesus is very honest and tells us everyone who lives according to the first seven beatitudes will eventually experience the eighth (Mt 5:10). Write it below:



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No one wants to be persecuted because it is a form of rejection, and we all want to be accepted. That's why peer pressure is so effective. Yet, Jesus says we can rejoice in rejection. We need to know how to rejoice in rejection since everyone who lives for Jesus Christ will be persecuted (2 Tim. 3:12).

When we possess the qualities described in the first seven beatitudes we will naturally stand out in our culture because we are different. This leads to being misunderstood, and then sometimes being persecuted and rejected. Rejoicing in rejection requires understanding three things:



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The Right Reasons for Rejection

Many times Christians are persecuted because they deserve it. Some are persecuted because they act holier-than-thou and are rude and judgmental. Others are persecuted because they are just generally obnoxious. These persons are not persecuted because of their Christianity but a lack of it. We are not followers of Jesus Christ because of what church we attend, how much we believe the Bible, or how pious we are. How does Jesus say everyone will know we are His disciples in John 13:35?

Other Christians are persecuted because they are lazy, irresponsible, or incompetent. The Bible teaches Christians should set the standard at work by being on time, working hard, and doing their very best (Col. 3:22).



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Jesus gives us two right reasons for rejection or persecution. First is for righteousness, which means right actions. It is doing what is right as revealed in God's Word. This means we talk right and don't participate in gossip at church, school, or work. It also means we don't use profanity, filthy language, or tell dirty jokes (Eph. 4:29).

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If we are righteous, not only do we talk right, we also act right. We don't do anything dishonest or unethical in our personal, work, or business life. When we are persecuted for trying to live a life of righteousness, we need to remember what promise in 1 Peter 3:12b?

On the other hand, the Lord will not hear our prayers if there is sin in our lives (1 Pet. 3:12c & Psa. 66:18).

Jesus says the second reason for persecution is on my account, or "for my sake" (Mt 5:11). This means our persecution stems from our devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. To rejoice in rejection, not only must we know the right reasons for rejection but also ...



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The Types of Rejection

The word translated persecuted (diōkō, dee-o-ko) means “to drive away” or “to pursue” (Mt 5:10). The dictionary defines the word “persecute” like this:

“to afflict or harass constantly so as to injure or distress.” How does Jesus describe persecution for being devoted to Him (Matthew 5:11)?

Persecution today doesn’t mean we will be crucified like Jesus or face a violent death like the apostles. In

America, where we have freedom of religion, persecution is more subtle and sophisticated. There are two primary ways Christians are persecuted today in America ...



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1. Verbal persecution. This is when people revile, or insult, us. The word translated revile (*oneidizō*, o–nee–did–zo) means to defame or attack verbally. Thus, it denotes verbal abuse, as when people say evil things about us. For example, when we stand up for what the Bible teaches about family or sexual morality, what happens? We are accused of being moral “dinosaurs,” bigots, and intolerant.

No matter how good a Christian you are, when you live for Jesus you will endure verbal persecution. You can’t live a better life than Jesus did, and He endured verbal persecution. When trying to discredit His power to cast out demons, what do the scribes or teachers of the Law say about Jesus in Mark 3:22b?

Like the perfect Jesus, we too face verbal persecution. But it doesn’t end there because we also endure ...

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2. Covert persecution. The word “covert” means concealed, hidden, or disguised. This more sophisticated type of persecution is when someone is passed over for a promotion because he or she will not be part of unethical or dishonest business practices. It is when other people at school or work ignore Christians during breaks. Covert persecution is also when Christians are left out of certain get-togethers or parties because they are not “party animals.”

When this happens, we need to remember what promise in Psalm 5:12? Rejoicing in rejection requires knowing the right reasons for rejection, the types of rejection, and ...

The Righteous Response to Rejection

There are at least three ways to respond righteously to rejection ...



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- Receive rejection as a compliment. Being persecuted indicates our lives are making an impact. Therefore, the Evil One wants us to be discredited or marginalized. When we receive persecution as a compliment, we won't react as the Evil One would like. Instead, we will overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:21). We can do that because of what truth found in 1 John 4:4c?
- Persecution means people can see a difference in us because we are trying to live holy lives. A great synonym for holy is "different," because to be holy we must be different from the world. The Holy Spirit enables us to react to persecution in a way that is holy, or "different," from the world. Not only do we need to receive rejection as a compliment, but also ...



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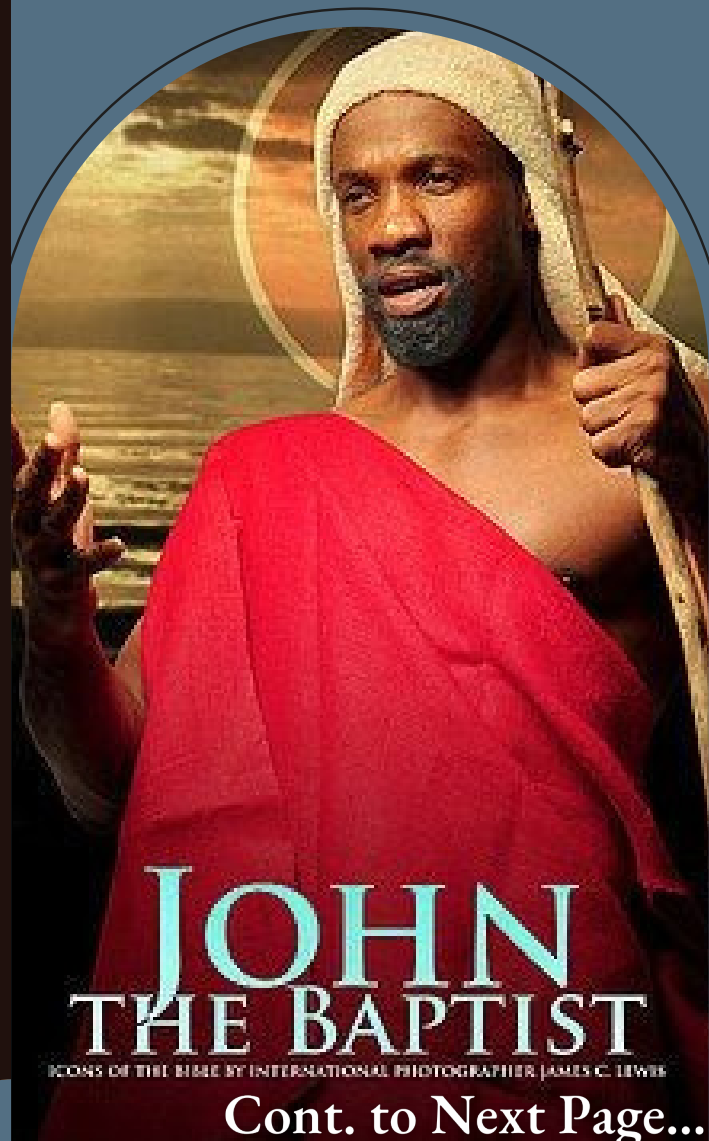
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Recognize the real culprit. People who persecute us are not really mean or evil; they just don't understand us. Even though Jesus performed many miracles in the presence of the Jews, most of them still would not believe. John explains that their disbelief fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that someone has blinded their eyes (Jn 12:40a). Who had blinded their eyes? How does 2 Corinthians 4:4a answer that question?

The god of this world is the same person Jesus called the ruler of this world (Jn 12:31 & 16:11). It is Satan himself. So, people persecute us because they have been spiritually blinded to the Gospel by Satan. Therefore, we shouldn't get mad at them; we should pray they receive spiritual sight.

Not only do we need to receive rejection as a compliment and recognize the real culprit, but also ...





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Remember the compensation. Jesus tells us our reward will be great in heaven (Mt 5:12). The word translated great means immeasurably great, because it is a reward that lasts for eternity. There is another reason to rejoice. How does Jesus express another part of our compensation in Matthew 5:12b?

This means we are in some really great company, with Elijah, Elisha, and Jeremiah. To understand how happy this should make us, we must look at the phrase be exceedingly glad (Mt 5:12a, kjv). The word translated glad (agalliaō, ah-gal-lee-ah'-oh) means to "jump for joy." It is to jump and maybe say something like: "Hot diggity dog." God's purpose for our lives will always involve rejection by some people. However, when we get to heaven, part of our compensation will be to hear God Himself say what words found in Matthew 25:23b?



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**REJOICING IN REJECTION
REQUIRES KNOWING THE RIGHT
REASONS FOR REJECTION, THE
TYPES OF REJECTION, AND THE
RIGHTEOUS RESPONSE TO
REJECTION.**



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