

# Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

May 9th, 2020

*Focus: To engage the reality of how and why we will suffer as we take up the cross of Jesus Christ.*

## *The Beatitudes* *Persecuted Discipleship -Lesson 8*

Introduction: Begin tonight with a discussion of the quotes below.

1. "There has always existed a tame, bland version of Christianity, watered down sufficiently to be able to fit in and get along." James C. Howell
  2. "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried." G. K. Chesterson
- Discuss how the truth of the Kingdom clashes with the status quo of our culture.
  - What are the results of this clash for believers?

Text: Matt. 5:10-12, Daniel 3; Matt. 16:25

- Read the Matthew text and discuss whether you believe this to be true or not.
- Read Daniel 3 and share your initial thoughts.
- Discuss the faith of these three men.
- Why will they not bow down?
- Reread vs. 17-18 and discuss this love of God and willingness to suffer.
- Read Matt. 16:25 and feed it into this conversation.

Application:

- Are you being persecuted because of righteousness? Why or why not?
- Discuss the reality that living this life for his Abba cost him his life.
- What kind of life do you want to live and how can we walk with you?
- Read and talk through these words of Mother Teresa, thinking through who we are to for the world as ambassadors of Christ.

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you've got anyway.