



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

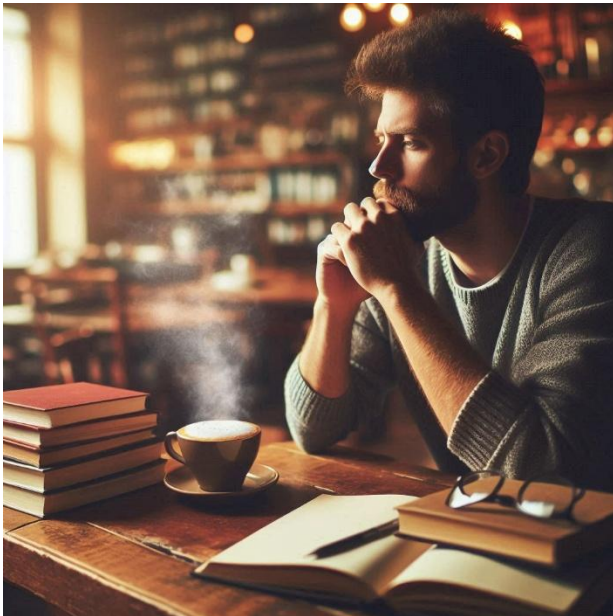
March 23, 2025

“Persecuted for Righteousness’ Sake, Matthew 5:10”

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (NRSVUE)*

It’s hard to believe that one verse from the Beatitudes could cause so many questions to arise! But that is the nature of Scripture, isn’t it! By that I mean that reading the Bible is not just a passive activity: we don’t just sit back and let words wash over us – there’s more. It is OK to enjoy the comforting words and the peace that comes to us from Scripture, but, at the same time, we should engage actively to listen for what the Spirit is telling us.

This is a different type of “Sunday Blast”: I’m going to ask **YOU** some questions about how this Scripture might be very appropriate in your lives! Feel free to reply to me with your own questions and comments.



The Timing and Nature of the Kingdom of Heaven: Where is this “Kingdom of God/Heaven”: on earth, not on earth, both?

The Meaning of Persecution for Righteousness’ Sake: What does it mean to be "persecuted for the sake of righteousness"? Does this refer only to physical suffering, or does it also include rejection, exclusion, or opposition for standing up for what is right?

Living Faithfully Amidst Opposition: In what ways can we prepare ourselves spiritually and emotionally to face persecution for righteousness in today's world?

Some final thoughts: What does this Beatitude mean for us today? While not all of us may face severe persecution, we are all called to live righteously, even when it invites opposition. This may involve standing up for justice, speaking truth in love, or refusing to conform to ungodly practices. In such instances, we can draw strength from Jesus' promise, knowing that our commitment to righteousness aligns us with God's kingdom.

God’s Peace, Vance

Prayer box: let us pray for the souls of our departed friends and family members, and those who mourn for them. Let us pray for comfort and healing for Connie, Patti, Holland, Steve, John H., Debbie, Lynn, and Maggie. Let us pray for all churches seeking pastors. Let us also pray for a deeper understanding of Scripture. Lord, hear our prayers!