

Study Guide for Matthew Lesson 45
"Happy Are the Harassed"
November 2, 2025

This guide is designed to review the key concepts and teachings presented in Lesson 45 of the Sermon on the Mount series, titled "Happy Are the Harassed."

Short Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three sentences, drawing all information from the source material.

1. According to the speaker, how should the experience of persecution impact a believer's willingness to be persecuted?
2. The speaker states that the blessing received during persecution begins "right here right now." How is this blessing experienced?
3. What common problem does the speaker identify that prevents people from properly understanding persecution, and what should be their focus instead?
4. How do the first and last Beatitudes act as bookends for the promises contained within them?
5. What is the proper "posture" or attitude a believer should have when facing persecution, according to Matthew 5:12?
6. What are the meanings of the two Greek words Jesus uses to command believers to be glad when persecuted?
7. What is the first of the two reasons given in the sermon for why a believer should rejoice in persecution?
8. Why, according to the speaker, can believers not receive their full rewards on earth?
9. What is the second reason given for rejoicing in persecution, relating to the prophets?
10. How does the speaker define persecution in the closing of the sermon, and what does it provide for a believer?

Essay Questions

Instructions: Consider the following prompts for deeper reflection and essay-style responses. Answers are not provided.

1. Discuss the speaker's concept of the "eternal weight of glory" and how it should reframe a believer's perspective on temporal persecution. Use the contrast between the "vapor" of earthly life and the permanence of heaven as a central point in your analysis.
2. Analyze the relationship between persecution, the promise of the kingdom, and a believer's security, as outlined in the sermon. Explain how these elements are interconnected to provide confidence to a believer.
3. Explain the two primary reasons for rejoicing during persecution, using the specific scriptural references (Matthew 6:19-21, 2 Timothy 4:8) and Greek terms (*shadow*, *agaliste*, *polus*) mentioned by the speaker to support your explanation.
4. Elaborate on the speaker's assertion that being persecuted places a believer in the "classy group" of the prophets. How does the parable from Matthew 21:33 support this claim?
5. Synthesize the speaker's arguments regarding the story of Chrysostom and Emperor Arcadius. How does this historical account serve as a practical illustration of the core message about having a heavenly perspective in the face of earthly threats?

Answer Key

1. A believer's experience of persecution should in no way impact their willingness to be persecuted. The text states that a believer should be willing to be persecuted and not let the idea of persecution stop them from doing God's work.
2. The blessing is experienced as a believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ. This allows the believer to live in God's kingdom "already" and experience the fullness of Christ in their daily life.
3. The speaker identifies the problem as being "shortsighted" and overly concerned with the "right here right now." Instead, believers should be thinking about things that are more important and last longer, giving the moments of their life to God to secure the "eternal weight of glory."
4. The first and last Beatitudes both end with the phrase, "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The speaker explains that this frames all the promises in between, indicating that the

kingdom is the ultimate gift of the Beatitudes and that a kingdom citizen on earth will be a kingdom citizen forever.

5. The first word in verse 12 is "rejoice." Therefore, the proper posture or attitude when facing persecution is to rejoice and be "exceedingly glad."

6. The Greek word for "rejoice" is *shadow*, which means to be really glad. The Greek word for "exceedingly glad" is *agaliste*, which means to be so glad that one would jump, skip, and shout for joy.

7. The first reason is that a believer's reward in heaven is "great." The speaker contrasts the short, temporary nature of earthly life, described as a vapor, with the eternal nature of heaven, arguing that one should invest their time and effort in what lasts forever.

8. Believers cannot receive their full rewards on earth because they "couldn't handle them." The speaker suggests that it would "mess you up," and the Lord must wait until believers are perfected in heaven and full of humility before they can properly handle their rewards.

9. The second reason is that the prophets who came before were also persecuted. This is not about misery loving company, but about understanding that as a persecuted Christian, one is part of a "very classy group of people" who were persecuted for being prophets of God.

10. The speaker defines persecution as "verification that you belong to the righteous line of Jesus Christ." This verification is presented as a key part of a "believer's security," offering assurance of salvation.

Glossary of Key Terms

Term/Name	Definition
<i>Agaliste</i>	A Greek word translated as "exceedingly glad." The speaker demonstrates its meaning as being so glad that you jump, skip, and shout for joy.
Arcadius	The Roman emperor who summoned and threatened the early Christian, Chrysostom.
Beatitudes	The series of blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. The speaker notes they begin and end with the promise, "theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Chrysostom	A great Christian from ancient times (c. 2nd century) who, when threatened by Emperor Arcadius, demonstrated unshakable faith by stating his treasures, life, and friendships were secure in God.
Happy Are the Harassed	The title of Lesson 45 in the Sermon on the Mount series, focusing on persecution. It is presented as the final lesson on this topic.
John Knox	A great Scottish preacher quoted as having "feared God so much that he never dared to fear any man."
Matthew 5:10-12	The source scripture for the sermon. It reads: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
Parable of the Vineyard	From Matthew 21:33, a parable Jesus taught about a landowner (God) who leased a vineyard to tenant farmers (the nation of Israel). The landowner sent his servants (the prophets) to the farmers, who stoned and killed them.
Polus	The Greek word for "great," used in the phrase "great is your reward." It means abundant or the fullness of a reward.
Posture	A term used by the speaker to refer to the attitude a believer should have regarding persecution. This attitude should be one of rejoicing.
Shadow	The Greek word for "rejoice," meaning to be "really glad."