The Beatitudes (Truly Blessed)

Part 7-The Importance of Faithfulness

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, Matt. 5: 11-12

Fastest growing Category of Religious Identity among Millennials? None

Which category of Gen. Z is double that of the rest of the population? Atheist

"For a time will come when people will not listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and look for teachers who will tell them what they want to hear. They will reject truth and chase after myths. But you should keep a clear mind…don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling the others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you." 2 Tim 4:3-5

1. We live in a world where it is increasingly likely you have to defend your faith, maybe even be persecuted for your faith. Are you prepared? How would you share or defend your faith?

2. What are you doing to pass your faith on to the next generation? your children, your grandchildren, etc…?

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and confident of what we do not see.. Heb. 11:1

3. Living for Christ at times is not easy but it is your faithful living that draws people to Christ, its how you tell the world Christ is worth following.

"If ever I am persecuted for my faith, I pray there is enough evidence to convict me." John Wooden

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart…Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; seek God's will in all you do, and God will show you the correct path to take." Proverbs 3:3-6

The Beatitudes
(Truly Blessed)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness for the kingdom of God is theirs"
Matt. 5:7

1. **What do you think about some of the statistical information that was shared during the sermon?**

2. Why do you think the younger generations are drifting away from faith in Christ in such large numbers?

3. Have you shared your faith with the younger generation. If so how? If not, why not?

4. Do you think we can reverse these societal trends? Can we get back to being a more predominantly Christian nation?

<u>Going Deeper:</u>
Read 2 Timothy 4:3-8. What does this tell you about faithfulness and the reward you receive for being faithful?