









# Best Sermon Ever: Blessed are those who are Persecuted

2/22/2026 – MATTHEW 5:10-12

EMMANUEL CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# The Beatitudes

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.

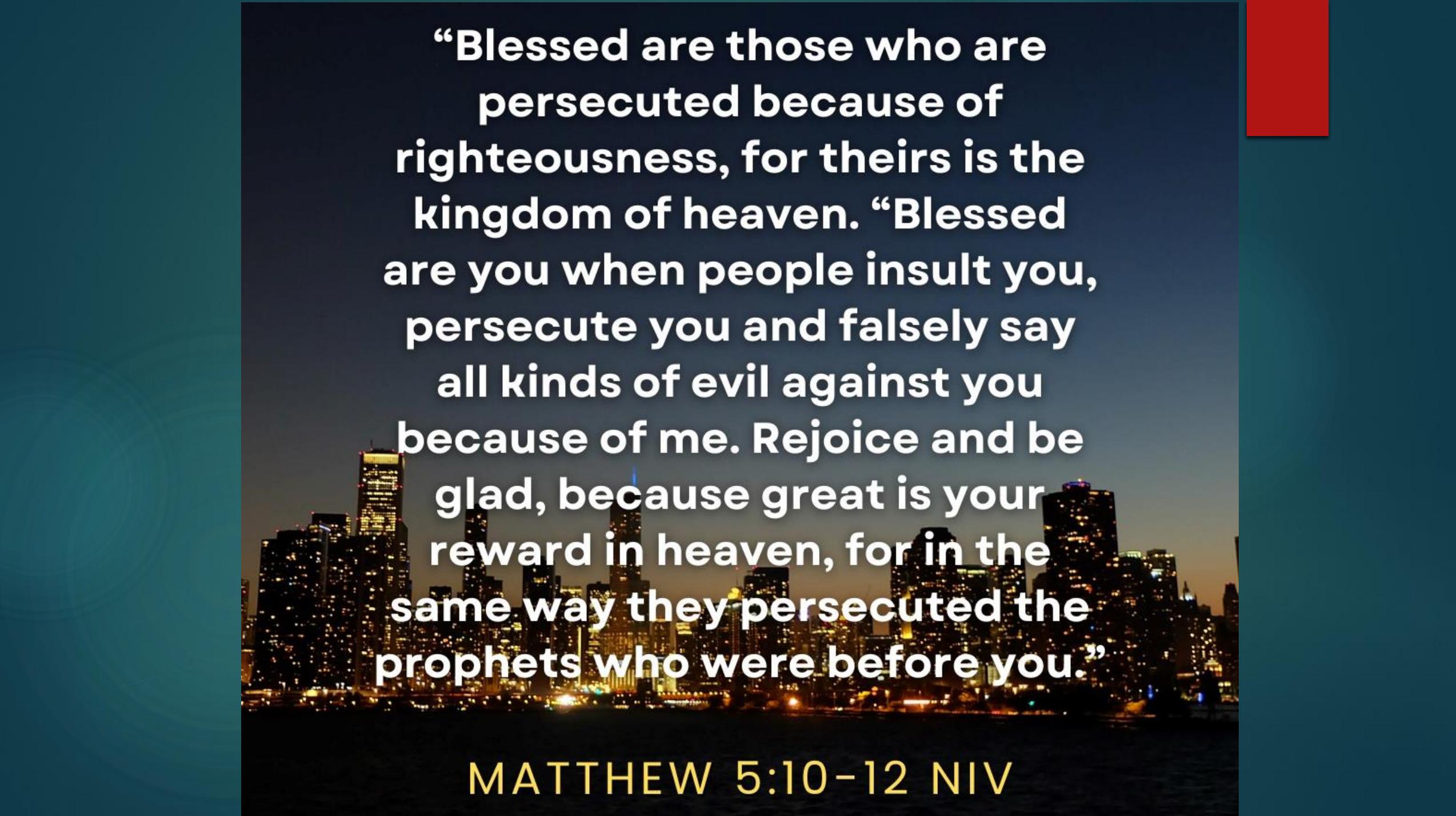
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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



**“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “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, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”**

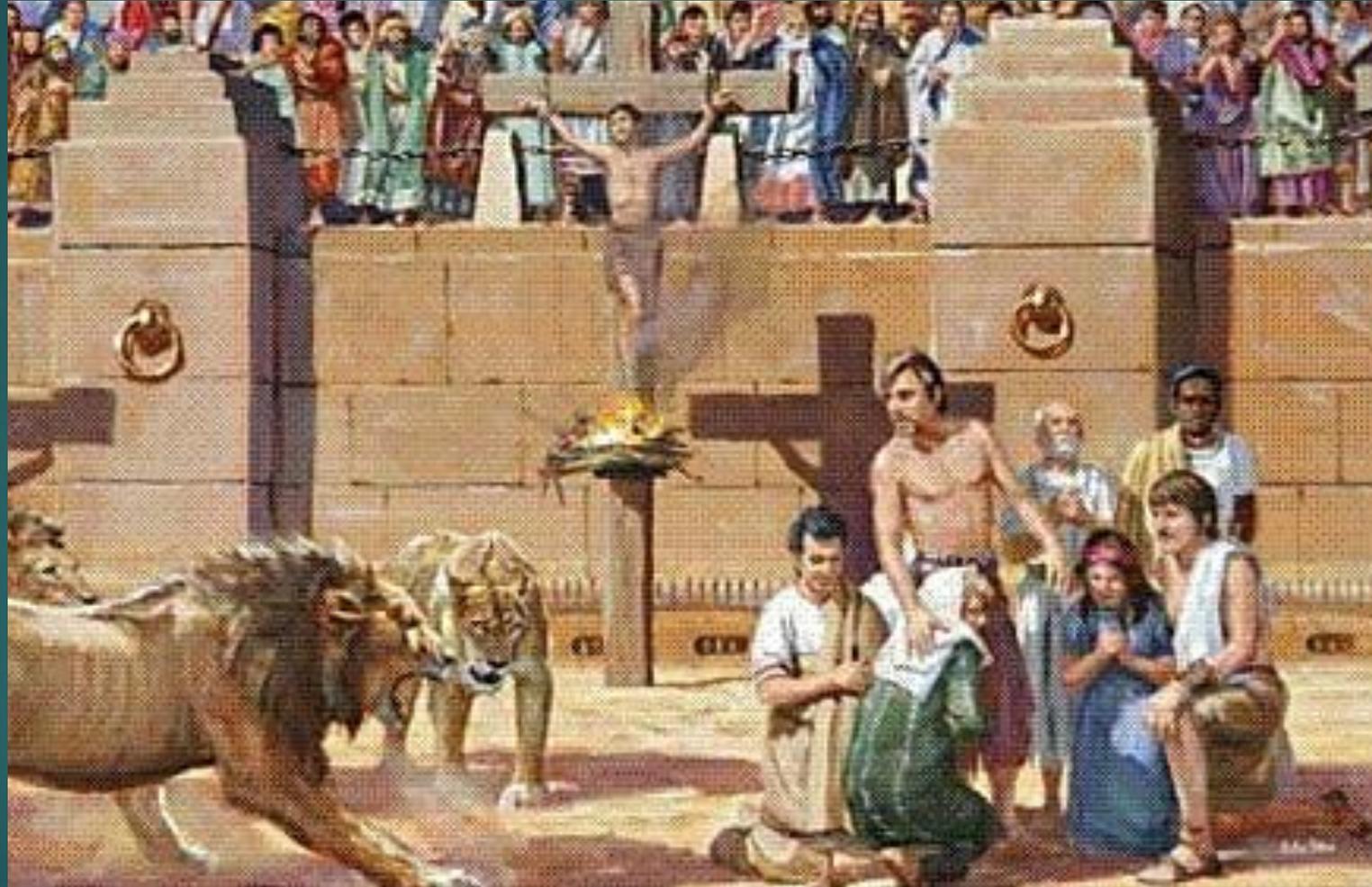
**MATTHEW 5:10-12 NIV**

# Three Observations

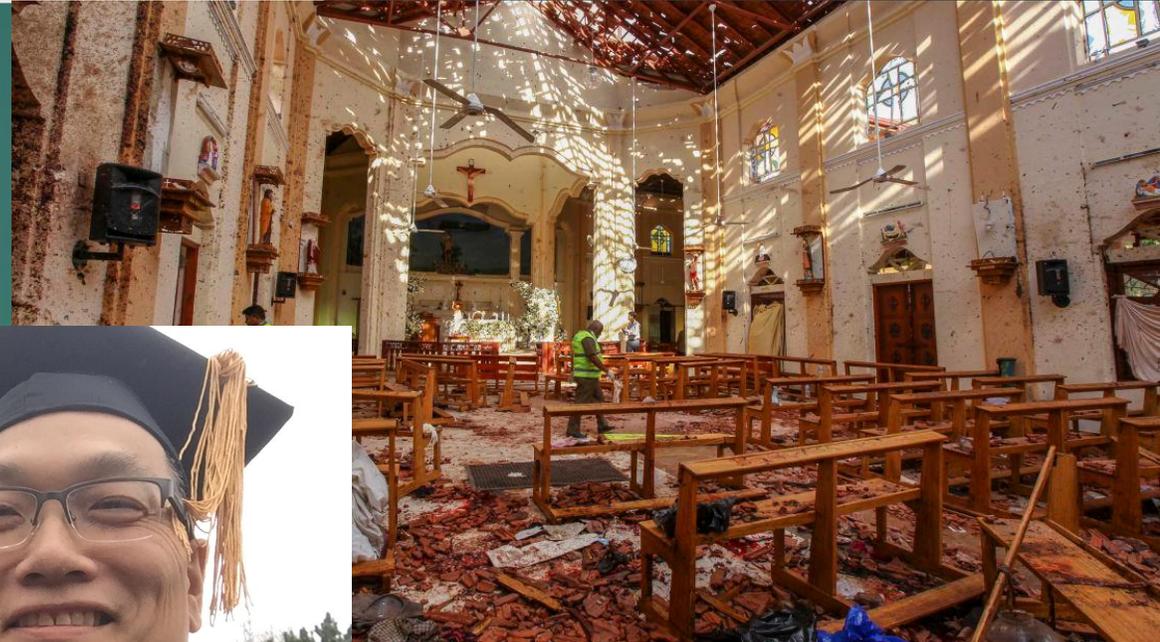
- ▶ Persecution comes in different ways, shapes, and forms
- ▶ Christians will be persecuted by the world
- ▶ There is reason to be joyful in the face of persecution

**Persecution Comes**  
**In Different Ways,**  
**Shapes, And Forms**

# What is Persecution?



# Persecution Around the World



# Persecution in America

CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY

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NEWS

## Cities Church Isn't Alone in Experiencing Hostility

MEGAN FOWLER

*From arson to armed attacks, North American houses of faith have seen alarming acts of aggression in recent years.*



# Sticks and Stones



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

**Christians Will Be**  
**Persecuted By The**  
**World**

# Jesus's Warning

John 15:18-25

18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.

# The Beatitudes

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

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8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

# Understanding the Reason

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.**

**There Is Reason To**  
**Be Joyful In The**  
**Face Of Persecution**

# A Reason to be Joyful

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.



Sophie  
Cassie B.  
Aston  
Charlotte  
Louise  
Shane  
Hannah  
Crystal  
James  
Steve  
Jade  
Matthew  
Codie  
Cassie K.



# A God-Centered Life on Earth Leads to a God-Centered Reward in Heaven

## Psalm 27:4

<sup>4</sup> One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

## Jeremiah 9:23-24

<sup>23</sup> This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, <sup>24</sup> but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.

## Philippians 3:10, 14

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death ... <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

# Conclusion

# Benediction



24 “““The Lord bless you and keep you;  
25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be  
gracious to you;  
26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give  
you peace.””