Stand Your Ground!
Blessed: It's An Inside Job! Pt. 8
Matthew 5:10-12
Sunday, November 1, 2026

Matthew 5:10, *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. **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."*

Daniel 3:16, *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. **17** If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **18** But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*

Daniel 6:3, *Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. **4** At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. **5** Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." ... **9** So King Darius put the decree in writing. **10** Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.*

Four Ways to Stay Faithful Under Fire:

1. **EXPECT Opposition — Don't Be Surprised**

   John 15:18, *"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."*

   2 Timothy 3:12, *In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

   1 Peter 4:12, *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

2. **STAND for Truth — Even When It's Unpopular**

   Acts 4:18, *Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! **20** As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."*

   Acts 5:27, *The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. **28** "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." **29** Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"*

   Ephesians 6:13, *Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to*

stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

3. **<u>RESPOND</u> with Love — Even When You're Mistreated**

   <u>Matthew 5:44</u>, *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

   <u>Romans 12:14</u>, *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

   <u>Romans 12:17</u>, *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. **20** On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

   <u>1 Peter 3:15</u>, *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

4. **<u>FOCUS</u> on Eternity — Remember Your Reward**

   <u>Matthew 5:12</u>, *Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

   <u>2 Corinthians 4:17</u>, *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

   <u>James 1:12</u>, *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*