

The 8 Secrets of a Happy Life

Secret #8: Live with Conviction

Pastor Rob Carlson • March 22, 2009 • Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 5:1-12--Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 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."

Conviction: The state of being _____;
a strong _____.

1. I know _____ I _____.
2. I know in _____ I _____.
3. I live to _____ my _____.
4. I boldly _____ Jesus as _____.

Philippians 3:12-14--Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Jesus is saying 4 things...

1. Expect _____.
John 15:18-19--If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19If 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.

2. Choose _____.

See James 1:2-15.

Acts 5:40-41--His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Philippians 3:7-11--But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

3. Anticipate _____.

See **Philippians 3:20**; **2 Timothy 4:7,8**; **Romans 8:18**; **2 Corinthians 4:1-18**; **5:1-10**; **6:3-10**; **2 Peter 2:11-12**; **Hebrews 11:10,14,16**; **13:14**; **2 Corinthians 11:23-28**; **12:9-10**; **1 Corinthians 4:9,10,13**.

Persecution comes in 3 waves:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Look _____.

See **Hebrews 11:32-40**; **12:1-3**; **Luke 21:12-13**

Revelation 6:9--When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways are Christians persecuted today? How have you been persecuted for your faith?
2. Review the points and verses from this lesson. What personal application can you make from this teaching?
3. Read and discuss 2 Timothy 3:10-17. What does this passage say about persecution? What else jumps out to you when you read these Bible verses.
4. Take some time right now to pray for the needs of those in your small group.