

**LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
**SERMON OUTLINE**  
**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Matthew 5:10-12**

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**RECAP:** Last week we talked about “peacemaking,” which is more than just being peaceful, kind, or opposed to conflict. It involves knowing that real peace comes from being changed by the Gospel.

**Thesis:** Three things bring us blessing as Christians; reviling, persecuting, and speaking evil.

**INTRO:**

- This is called a **chiastic passage**, which is common in Hebrew literature. It is when a text makes its point, over time, by making points A-B-C-B-A style, like bookends.
- We see a total shift from being part of the world, to being in opposition to the world. We want to bring lasting peace, which the world doesn’t like. **John 17:14-16, Col. 1:24.**

**EXEGESIS:**

- The first thing we notice is this “**blessed, happy**” aspect, once again this adjective defines us as believers. But then interestingly, we see what generates this blessing; persecution!
- **MacArthur:** “As long as people have no reason to believe that we are Christians, at least obedient and righteous Christians, we need not worry about persecution. But as we manifest the standards of Christ, we will share in the reproach of Christ.”
  - **1) “Reproach/revile/defame.”** “ὀνειδίζω.” This is the idea of someone with defaming you, slandering you, either in private or in public. **Matt. 11:20, Mark 15:32.**
  - **2) “Persecute/Pursue/Prosecute.”** “διώκω.” This term is used to describe more of a pursuit, hunt, or continued attempt to hurt someone. **Matt. 5:44, Luke 21:12.**
  - **3) “Speaking every evil/wrong.”** “εἰπῶσιν πᾶν πονηρὸν.” This is not just speaking evil, but the GNT includes a modifier, speaking EVERY evil, i.e. everything imaginable against us.
- **The Kingdom of Heaven:** Here we see the beauty of the Beatitudes coming full circle. In the beginning, the man who was spiritually and morally destitute was the one who would inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - We should be overjoyed when we are ostracized, mocked, and rejected as believers in Christ. **Because Christ has promised** so much reward; the Kingdom, and life forever with Him, so much more than anything this world can offer you.
  - Kingdom citizens are people who gave up their worldly joy and temporary comforts, because they trusted in the God who saved them and uses them.
  - Kingdom people are people who will experience trials and persecution. We need to be prepared for that, but even more so, we need to realize, there’s joy there!

**CONCLUSION:**

- We need to change our mindset to realize happiness isn’t in worldly acceptance. We need to realize happiness is staying different from the rest of the world. And when persecution and mocking come because of it, Christ is better than any compromise the world can offer.