

## The Gospel of Matthew

*"The Witness of the Kingdom"*  
Matthew 5:11-16

## Persecution Today...

- 200 million Christians in 60 countries face overt persecution every day
- More Christians (26 million) were martyred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century than in the previous 19 centuries combined
- 150,000 to 165,000 Christians are martyred every year

## The Witness of the Kingdom

### 1. Goal of our Lifestyle

➤ *that others may glorify God (5:16)*

- live in such a way that people look at your life and make much of God
- this goal in our actions is an expression of greatest love for others

## The Witness of the Kingdom

### 1. Goal of our Lifestyle

Q: *What kind of life causes others to glorify God when they see it?*

A: *A life that can only be explained by a love for God and an unshakable hope in His kingdom*

## The Witness of the Kingdom

### 2. Effects of our Lifestyle

➤ Persecution

- our righteousness will be contrary to the values of the world and will meet with opposition
- our incomparable reward in heaven is the source of present joy in persecution

## The Witness of the Kingdom

### 2. Effects of our Lifestyle

➤ Revelation

- *"salt of the earth"* – we give a savor of God in an insipid, godless world
- *"light of the world"* – we shine the knowledge of God into a spiritually dark world

## The Witness of the Kingdom

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### 3. Display of our Lifestyle

➤ Complementary Features:

- *distinctiveness* – if our life is diluted so as to be indistinguishable from the world we are useless as a witness of the kingdom
- *involvement* – if our life is isolated and withdrawn from the world we are useless as a witness of the kingdom