2. They experience a special _____

   2 Corinthians1:5 "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."

3. They are given a very special _____, a glow of the Lord's _____

   1 Peter 4:14 "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified."

4. They become a greater _____ for Christ

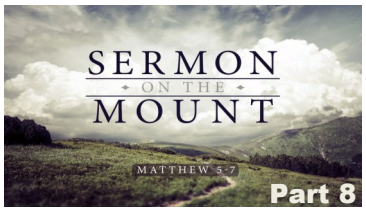
   2 Corinthians 1:4-6 "**4** Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. **5** For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. **6** And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."

B. The Kingdom of Heaven—_____!

Hebrews 11:35 "Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:"

1 Peter 4:12-13 "**12** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **13** But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

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Matthew 5:10
"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

INTRODUCTION

"**PERSECUTED**": The word means to endure suffering for Christ; to be mocked, ridiculed, criticized, ostracized; to be treated with hostility; to be martyred.

I. There are three major kinds of persecution mentioned by Christ in this passage

   A. Being _____: verbally abused, insulted, scolded, mocked

      Hebrews 11:36 "And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:"

   B. _____: hurt, ostracized, attacked, tortured, martyred, and treated with hostility

   C. Having _____ _____of evil spoken against you: slander, cursed, and lied about (Psalm 35:11; Acts 17:6-7) "hard speeches", that is, harsh, defiant words, Jude 15.

II. Who are the Persecuted?

   A. The person who **lives** and **speaks** for _____ and is **reacted** against

   B. The person who lives and speaks for _____and is reviled, persecuted, and spoken against

III. Persecution is a **Paradox**. It reveals that the true nature of the world is _____.

IV. Believers are **forewarned**; they shall suffer persecution

A. Believers shall suffer persecution: because they are not of this _____

John 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

B. Because Believers strip away the world's _____ of sin

John 15:18 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

John 15:22 "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."

2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

C. Because the world does not **know** _____ or _____

John 15:21 "But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."

John 16:3 "And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me."

D. Because the world is _____ in its **concept** and **belief** of God (7 more references to this!)

John 16:2-3 "**2** They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. **3** And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me."

V. Persecutions can erupt from the most _____ imaginations of men

1 Peter 4:12 "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:"

VI. What is to be the Believer's **attitude** toward persecution?

A. It is _____ to be retaliation, pride, spiritual superiority

B. It is to be _____ and _____

Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

2 Corinthians 12:10 "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

1 Peter 4:12-13 "**12** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **13** But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

VII. The Persecuted are promised great rewards

A. The Kingdom of Heaven—_____

1. They experience a special _____

Acts 5:41 "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."