

The Art of Being Unordinary: Persecution (Week 8)

Matthew 5:10-12

November 10, 2019

Read 2 Timothy 3:12

What is your initial reaction when you read this promise?

Why do you think Jesus listed this beatitude last?

What are some reasons people might give for persecuting Christians, whether physically, verbally, etc.? Are any of the reasons justifiable? Why or why not?

Can you think of a time you were “persecuted for righteousness’ sake?”

Do you think one type of persecution is worse than another? Why or why not?

Can you think of a time where you allowed a fear of persecution affect your actions? What about a time you thought you were being persecuted, but in hindsight realize you were just seeking persecution?

Who is someone God is calling you to be bold about your faith with?

As a group, pray for the individuals that were brought up. Pray that God would give your group opportunities to share the love of God with them. Write down the names of the individuals you prayed for so you can hold one another accountable in following through on God’s calling

How each of the 12 apostles (and Paul) died according to church tradition:

Paul – Beheaded

Peter – Crucified

James son of Zebedee - Killed

Andrew – Crucified

Thomas – Speared

Philip – Arrested and put to death

Matthew – Possibly Stabbed

Bartholomew – Unknown

Thaddeus – Killed

James Alpheus – Stoned to death

Simon the Zealot – Unknown

Matthias – Burned Alive

John – Died of old age, but was exiled to an island after allegedly escaping from a vat of boiling oil unhurt

