

Let Justice Roll Down

Justice & Religious Freedom: Matthew 5:1-12

Discussion Points

November 12, 2017

Read & Reflect

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12, read it slowly so that the familiarity of the passage doesn't get in the way of letting God speak to you.
2. Do the beatitudes reflect how you usually define a blessing from God?
3. Why do you suppose persecution is the last in the "list of blessings?"

Explore

4. Why is it easy to think of religious freedom for yourself, but harder to think of or promote when it is someone else's religious beliefs? Why is religious freedom important to society in general?
5. How or why might religious freedom be more than mere tolerance of people's private beliefs? What implications does religious freedom have for public life?
6. How ready are you for religious persecution?
 - I know who I am, and wouldn't let anyone take that identity from me.
 - I know what I live for and will pursue it even through hardship.
 - I know what (who) holds me together and won't compromise for the sake of comfort or safety.

Pray:

The first request of persecuted Christians is "Pray for us." So please pray:

- For Christians around the world who are imprisoned for their faith that God will strengthen, protect and encourage them,
- For God's protection of pastors and evangelists who share the gospel in restricted and hostile nations,
- For Christian converts from Islam who must decide when and how to tell family and friends they are now followers of Jesus,
- For the provision and encouragement of Christians whose family members were killed for living out their faith in Christ,
- For radio, television and Internet ministries that broadcast God's Word into restricted nations,
- For the provision and safe delivery of Bibles to believers in hostile and restricted nations,