

## Are You Sure?

11-5-08  
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Matthew 5:10-2 – Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## SUMMARY:

Being a Christian is great, but it also means that we will do, say, and think things that the world will think is “crazy.” Christians live in love, as Christ loved us and died for us. Christians are motivated by love, not self-interest. Mother Mary, John, Moses, all the heroes of the faith die to the self and face persecution or worse. This is contrary to the way some people think of nice, feel-good Christianity. You have to be “crazy” to follow this Lord. Count the costs.

But the benefits of the Christian life, if we carry our cross daily, is the freedom to live life to the fullest, to have a joy and hope to which nothing can compare. DIE and you will LIVE.

## NOTES:

## DISCUSSION POINTS:

### Questions

Do you agree that being a Christian is the best? Do you agree that being a Christian is “crazy”? Why?

Have you ever experienced a time when those outside the church thought you were “crazy”?

Have you ever really been persecuted for your faith?

What are some of the blessings you experience from being a Christian?

Have you heard of the “What’s-in-it-for-me Jesus”? How do you find that Jesus different from Jesus of the Bible?

## APPLICATION:

Kill the “What’s in it for me” mentality. Live life out of the singular motivation that is love.

## ON YOUR OWN...

Hebrews 11  
Psalm 22  
Mark 3:20-35