

CG Discussion Questions - Week 9 (11/24-11/30)

Warm Up:

- What's the difference between being punished for doing something wrong and being persecuted for doing something good?

Discussion:

- Those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake receive the exact same thing as the poor in spirit (see Matthew 5:3). Why do you think Jesus repeats it here, and what do you think the correlation is between those who are "poor in spirit" and those who are "persecuted"?
- Read 1 Kings 19:1-18. In Matthew 5, Jesus mentions that the prophets were persecuted too. Why was Elijah (one of the prophets in the Old Testament) persecuted, and what was significant about God's response to Elijah?
- Read Daniel 3:8-30. How did Daniel's three friends respond under the threat of persecution for worshiping God alone, and what was the significance of the ensuing events?
- Read John 16:25-33. Things get hard for those who choose to follow the Lord Jesus. What sticks out to you, and what does Jesus say is the source of our peace amidst hardship? Why is this significant?

Application:

- What would it look like for you to implement Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:10-12 in your life?
- Is there anything else the Lord has impressed on you from these passages to obey this week (relating to persecution or not)?