Pastoral Notes

"Sho-Nuff Blessed-Pt3" Matthew 5: 9-12.

We have now concluded our three part series where we tunneled into the biblical text known as the Beatitudes, to learn the final two blessings of happiness Jesus says comes to those who are his true disciples.

When you can stand in the midst of a storm & smile if the face of adversity, you are Sho-Nuff Blessed. Jesus said we are to be Peacemakers for then we will truly be called the on a deserted island. But when you are persecuted, lied on, mistreated, maligned for trying to live a righteous life, Jesus says you will be rewarded in heaven. His teaching makes me shout because it basically says 'the greater your haters, the greater your reward'.

If by following Jesus you have haters, it means you also have rewards. God will turn your hater-ade into lemonade. Haters may think they are hurting you but they are actually helping you build up eternal rewards that will not rust or decay. So

Key Sermonic Points

- 1. Peacemakers will be Partakers of God's Kingdom
- 2. Worldly persecution brings Godly restitution
- 3. The greater your haters, the greater your reward

children of God. It's not what the world calls us that matters, but what God calls us. We all need peace, but when we promote and make peace, he calls us his own. Strive to be a peace 'maker' and not only a peace 'keeper'. You can't live a conflict free life but you can choose to handle conflict in a peaceful manner through love and forgiveness.

Lastly, Jesus spoke on the topic of persecution. We can all identify with this because <u>per</u>secution is <u>per</u>sonal. If you've never been a victim of persecution it must be that you have been living when you are unfairly judged or taken advantage of don't cry, instead shout, because the greater your haters the greater your reward. Righteous persecution brings Godly restitution because as a child of the most high God, you are Sho-Nuff Blessed.

For this week's perceptive message, visit our website: <u>WeeklyAudioSermons.ctcchu</u> rch.org

Stay Blessed, Pastor Robbie [Published Date: June 20, 2016]

Nuggets:

- Don't have enemies on your mind, have heaven on your mind
- Change your disposition toward your opposition
- When you take pride in becoming a peacemaker, you bless God
- Remember that Jesus is called the "Prince of Peace" (Isa 9:6)
- You must learn how to stand in the midst of a storm and smile in the face of adversity

According to former President Ronald Reagan: "peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means".