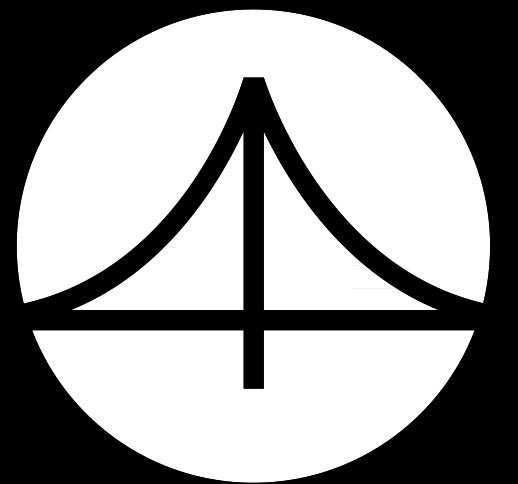


# Beatitudes: The Persecuted for Righteousness

Matthew 5:10-12



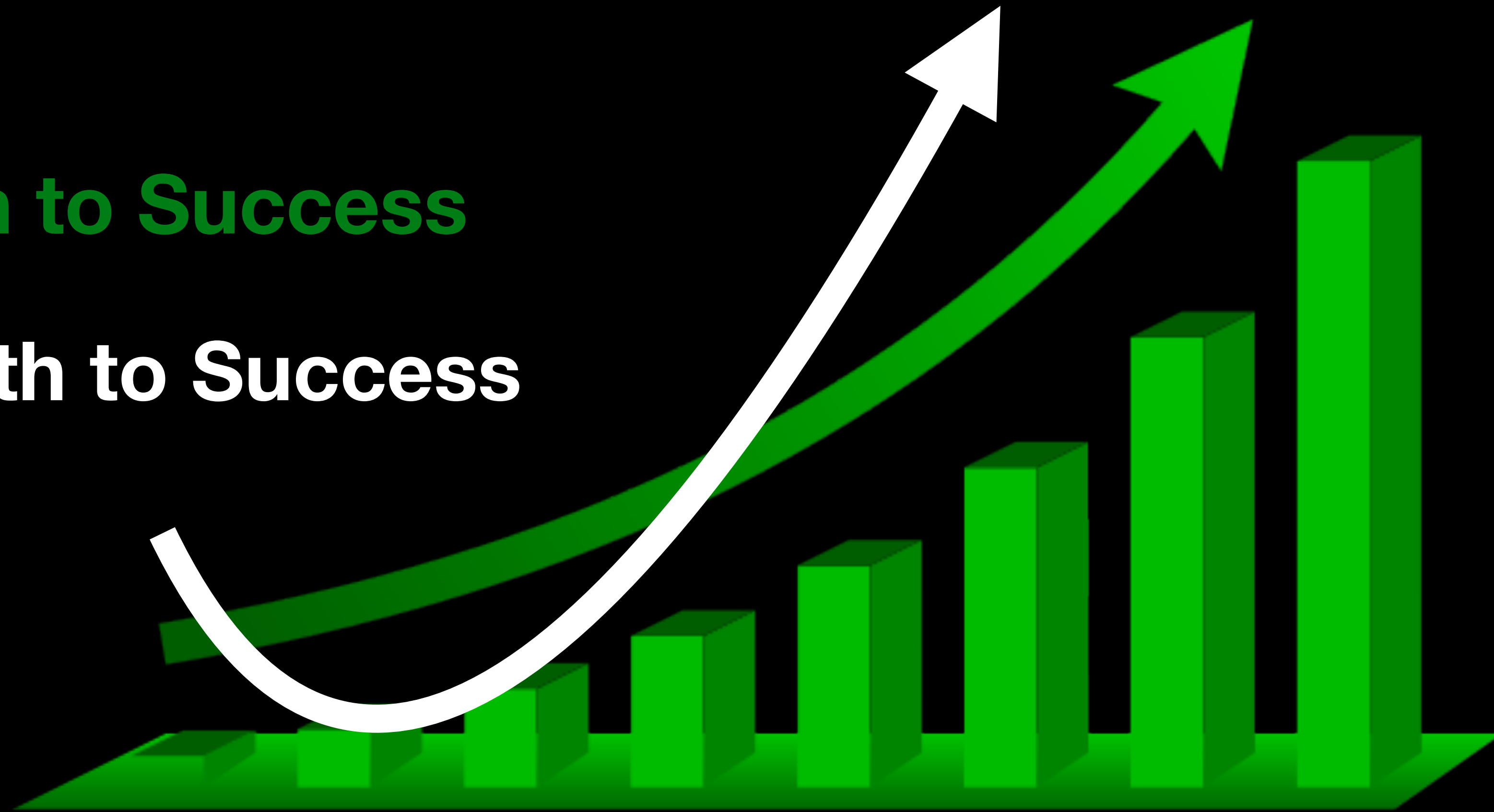
**Blessed are those who are persecuted for  
righteousness' sake, for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.**

- **A Strange Path to Blessing**
- **Exploring the Path**
- **Entering the Path**

# A Strange Path to Blessing

**Our Path to Success**

**Jesus' Path to Success**



Matthew 5:10-12

# Exploring the Path

- We all understand the idea of sacrifice now for greater gain later, but persecution is hard because we're out of control and can't see our progress
- Jesus models the J-curve through His life, death, and resurrection

Matthew 5:10-12

**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*– Philipians 2:5-11*

# Exploring the Path

- We all understand the idea of sacrifice now for greater gain later, but persecution is hard because we're out of control and can't see our progress
- Jesus models the J-curve through His life, death, and resurrection
- Jesus not only models the J-curve, He also saves us so our future resurrection is guaranteed

Matthew 5:10-12

# Entering the Path

- Should Christians view persecution as fun?
- How do we rejoice in the midst of something so hard?
- What's the difference between normal suffering, persecution in general, and persecution for righteousness?
- What will persecution look like?

Matthew 5:10-12

# Entering the Path

- What if I'm not being persecuted right now?
- If persecution brings blessing, should I seek persecution?

Matthew 5:10-12



Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and **MAY SHARE HIS SUFFERINGS, BECOMING LIKE HIM IN HIS DEATH**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

*– Philipians 3:8-11 (Emphasis Added)*

“I never knew by my nine years of preaching so much of Christ’s love, as He taught me... by six months imprisonment... Christ’s cross is such a burden as sails are to a ship or wings to a bird.”

– *Samuel Rutherford*