Blessed are Those who are Persecuted
Matthew 5:10-12

I. Persecution of God’s People in the Past. Matthew 5:12
   a. ________ was murdered for doing right! (Genesis 4:3-5)
   b. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into a fiery furnace! (Daniel 3:16-18)
   c. ________ was cast into a lion’s den for praying to God. (Daniel 6:5-12)

II. Jesus’s Followers were Persecuted.
   a. John the Baptist was ________. (Matthew 14:3-12)
   b. ________ was stoned to death. (Acts 7:54-60)
   c. James was beheaded. (Acts 12:1-4)
   d. Paul’s life was a series of __________. (2 Corinthians 11:24-29)

III. How are we persecuted today?
   a. In some cases, there is still the threat of physical persecution.
   b. In our employment situations.
   c. ________ situations. (Matthew 10:21-23, 36)

IV. Where is the blessing?!?
   a. ________ that we are God’s children. (Luke 6:26; 2 Timothy 3:12; I Peter 2:20)
   b. A reminder of the fragile nature of life on earth. (James 1:2-4; 4:14)
   c. It emphasizes the ________ of Christ. (Matthew 5:11)
   d. It causes us to want to go to ____________. (Matthew 5:12; 6:19-20; Revelation 21:4)