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***Speaker:*** *Adam Scott*

***Speaker:*** *Jon Shaw*

***Sermon:*** *What a Character*

***Series:*** *Sermon on the Mount*

 ***Series:*** *True North*

***August 13, 2023***

**Sermon Resources**

**GROUP GUIDE**

***Sermon:*****GROUP GUIDE**

 ***Series:*** *True North*

***Speaker:*** *Jon Shaw*

**WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

Matthew 5:3-12

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS DEFINED BY HUMILITY BEFORE GOD (Matthew 5:3-6)

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS DEFINED BY COMPASSION TOWARDS OTHERS (Matthew 5:7-9)

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS DEFINED BY A DAILY DECISION TO FOLLOW JESUS (Matthew 5:10-12)

***(SERMON IN A SENTENCE)*** Christian character is defined by humility, compassion, and a daily decision to follow Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. -Matthew 5:10 NIV

**WHAT DO I NEED TO ASK?**

What is character and why does it matter?

Carey Nieuwhof says, “If you change everything in your life except your character, you still won’t be the kind of person you want to be.” Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 5:3-12. What are some qualities people normally associate with power and influence? How does the list Jesus gives us differ from this? How do you explain the difference?

What does it mean to be “blessed”? In what ways have you experienced the blessings described here? Is Jesus referring to a benefit we receive now or to some sort of future reward? Or is there an element of both?

Pick one Beatitude to restate with a specific situation from your life (ex: “Blessed are the peacemakers” could be written as “Blessed is the one who helps John and Mary to talk to each other again.”).

In view of all of these qualities, why is persecution inevitable? In what ways are you persecuted? How do you respond? What does Jesus say your reaction should be?