

Matt 5:11-12 (NLT)

God blesses you when you are mocked and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted, too.

During any holiday, as with most people, you may spend it with family. But all of your family members may not be Christian. You may be with a lot of people that you love and that will, in one way or another, make fun of you because you are a Christian.

But Jesus says, ***“God blesses you when you are mocked and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers.”***

You may be saying, *“What are you talking about Jesus? Don’t you know how much it hurts to be mocked and made fun of?”*

Jesus answers with an astounding, “YES!”

† **Matt 27:27-31 (NLT)** *Some of the governor's soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire battalion. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they placed a stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery, yelling, "Hail! King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and beat him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.*

Jesus knew all too well, and know that He would not ask us to do something that He Himself would not be willing to do.

So today or any day, if people make fun of you because you are a Christian, rejoice and be happy because you are a child of God.

† **John 15:20** ***Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.***