

**FOOTSTEPS**  
**What it Really Means to Follow Jesus**

**TAKING A STAND**

Matthew 5:10-12

Jeff Schreve

*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:10-12*

**Are you taking a stand for Jesus Christ and righteousness?**

**1. God calls you to stand up and be counted for Jesus Christ.**

*Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

*Jude 1:3*

A. It is right to take a stand for righteousness.

B. It is necessary to take a stand for righteousness.

*For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude 1:4*

**2. God warns you that a stand for Christ will not be popular.**

A. You will be hated for it.

*If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. John 15:18-19*

B. You will be persecuted for it.

*And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12*

C. You will be insulted and maligned for it.

**3. God reminds you that a stand for Christ is worth it.**

A. He will bless you for taking a stand for Christ.

B. He will reward you for taking a stand for Christ.

**We are not called to be popular with the world, but to be faithful to the Lord.**

**Can God count on you to take a stand for Jesus?**