

Sermon Title: The Reward of Loyalty

Sermon Text: Matthew 5:10-12

Date: April 12, 2026

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you from the sermon or your time with God this week?

2. This week, Joe explain that there are rewards *and* costs to following Jesus. Take a few minutes to write down what comes to mind for each each, then share with the group.

Rewards	Costs

3. Read Matt 5:10–12 and John 15:18. Why would pursuing righteousness—right relationship with God and others—sometimes result in pushback, rejection, or even hatred? Where do you notice the way of Jesus clashing with the values or expectations of the world around us?

4. Read Philippians 2:5–11 and Revelation 5:6–14. In Jesus' life, where do you see the cost of His obedience? How is He rewarded for it?

Rewards	Costs

CASE STUDY:

Ryan became a Christian three years ago after hitting rock bottom. Since then he's been "on fire for Jesus" — singing worship songs during his morning walk around the neighborhood, leaving tracts at the gas station, telling people that Jesus loves them at stores. He gets genuinely frustrated that so many Christians know the truth and never share it with anybody. "Don't they realize a person's eternity is at stake?!" Last week, his coworker Jana was diagnosed with cancer and Ryan said, "Jana, maybe this is God's way of trying to get your attention." Earlier today, his neighbor Ahmad opened up to him about some marital struggles he's been having. Ryan listened for a bit and said "I think what's really missing is that you two need to put God at the center of your relationship." In small group, Ryan shared, "I just feel like I'm supposed to be a light where I am. Even if people don't see it now, I'm planting seeds that can grow into faith. It's just been hard recently — I'm feeling persecuted for my faith."

How would you respond to Ryan? How could you use Matthew 5:10-12 in that conversation?