

Daily devotions for  
2019



**Day 17**  
Matthew 5  
Sermon on the Mount  
Pt2

*11 "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. 12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way."*  
Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

One thing I discovered in this study, is how different translations break up these verses into segments. In The Message, this comes at the end of the section 'you're blessed', and in the NLT and NIV, 'the Beatitudes', meaning 'supreme blessedness'. And here, we see how supremely blessed we are.

We can so often be dragged down by pettiness, when we are "mocked", when people "lie about you". It can be so easy to be drawn into a web of retaliation, to become so fearful of this mortal mockery, of the gossip, the snide comments.

But, in reality, we are not tied down to this system of judgement. Personally, I get very self-conscious of what other people say, of jokes fooling people into thinking I am someone I am not. But God is not fazed by this, the gossip and drama doesn't reach him - he looks into our hearts and sees the real us. How we feel, who we are.

But this is a significant message for us too. In our society, self-image can be considered very important - how you dress, who you know, what you say. This image is presented by you - no one else can do it for you - and so we often take advantage of this. It is not just other people who can change how people see us, its us too.

We can change the way we walk, the way we talk, we can manipulate how people see us, but just as he sees beyond how other people lie about us, he sees beyond our own lies too - he can see beyond our appearance and into our heart.

### **Prayer**

God, thank you that you love us  
Thank you that the words of man cannot reach you  
That they're gossip does not sway you  
That you see us for us  
Please help us to remember that  
And that we can't lie to you  
But that, whatever happens  
You see the real us  
And you love us all the same  
Amen