

Beatitude reflection – Blessed are the persecuted

**Mt 5:10: Blessed are those that are persecuted for they will inherit the kingdom of heaven**

**Mt 19:14: Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belong to such as these”**

[A little girl, around 6-7 years of age, interrupts her somewhat gruff and surly grandpa reading his newspaper.]

Lucy           What does “purse-cuted” mean, Grandpa?

Grandpa       It’s “pers-e-cuted”...[*curtly*] Why do you want to know?

Lucy           Well, Jesus used it in the “Be Attitudes”.

Grandpa       Hmmp. You still goin’ to that Sunday School?

Lucy           [in a small voice] Yes. Mum takes me when she goes to church.

Grandpa       Aaagh. I keep telling her it’s just filled with hypocrites.

Lucy           [in a stronger voice] Grandpa, you still haven’t answered my question.

Grandpa       [*He folds the newspaper and lays it in his lap*] Persecution. You could look it up in the dictionary. Don’t they teach you how to use one of those things these days?

Lucy           [*starts in a small voice*] I did. It said “to pursue in a hostile, envus or malishus way” [*mispronouncing “envious” and “malicious”*]. I still don’t understand what it means though.

Grandpa       Well, you could look at the Jews in World War II... or Ghandi standing up to the Brits in India... or Nelson Mendalla fighting apartheid from Robin Island.

Lucy           [in a small voice] I ‘spose...Grandpa, have you ever been pers-e-cuted?

Grandpa       [*In a gruff voice*] It’s a hard word to learn about Lucy.

Lucy           Well, have you Grandpa?

Grandpa       Hmmp...What is it to you?

Lucy           [in a small voice] I guess I just wanted to know.

Grandpa       Do you? Do you really want to know Lucy?

Lucy           [in a small voice] Yes Grandpa. [*pause then in a stonger voice*] I love you.

Grandpa       [*Long pause of around 6 seconds*]

[*in a small voice*] Oh Lucy, the pain...it still hurts so much!

Lucy           Grandpa, I love you. Jesus loves you too. [*Lucy throws her arms around her grandpa and hugs him. He returns the hug after a few seconds. They freeze and then exit holding hands.*]

Voice          [*Read when they exit*]

Being vulnerable is at the heart of the cross.  
Being child-hearted and not counting the loss,  
Brings the kingdom of heaven nearer  
For those we must learn to hold dearer.

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[Sitting chair with rug and newspaper on it (as if being used)]

Jenny Imagine – a little girl, 7 years of age, interrupting her sometimes gruff and surly grandpa reading his newspaper. [Put the lamb on the armchair]

Lucy What does “purse-cuted” mean, Grandpa?

Grandpa It’s “pers-e-cuted”...[curtly] Why do you want to know?

Lucy Well, Jesus used it in the “Be Attitudes”.

Grandpa Hmmph. You still goin’ to that Sunday School?

Lucy [in a small voice] Yes. Mum takes me when she goes to church.

Grandpa Aaagh. I keep telling her it’s just filled with hypocrites.

Lucy [in a stronger voice] Grandpa, you still haven’t answered my question.

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Grandpa [In a gruff voice] It’s a hard word to learn about Lucy.

Lucy Well, have you Grandpa?

Grandpa Hmmph...What is it to you?

Lucy [in a small voice] I guess I just wanted to know.

Grandpa Do you? Do you really want to know Lucy?

Lucy [in a small voice] Yes Grandpa. [pause then in a stonger voice] I love you.

Grandpa [Long pause of around 6 seconds]

[in a small voice] Oh Lucy, the pain...it still hurts so much!

Lucy Grandpa, I love you. Jesus loves you too.

Jenny Then Lucy threw her arms around her grandpa ... And then he wept.

Voice [Pause]

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