

Our vision at GFC is that God would raise up a generation of Christians who have the **COURAGE** to stand, the **CONFIDENCE** to speak up, and the **HEART TO SACRIFICE** because they're committed to the TRUTH of God's Word, the MISSION of God's church, and the MERCY of God's Son – Jesus Christ.

## WORSHIP & PRAYER NIGHT

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!"

NOV 15 | FLORENCE CAMPUS | 7-8:30PM

### Worship & Prayer Night

Join us on **Nov 15** for an evening of **giving thanks to the Lord** together! GraceKids worship night offered for ages 10 & younger.

**Deadline to register your kids is TONIGHT at midnight.**

More info @ [graceky.org/events](https://graceky.org/events)



### Kingdom Cost

**Matthew 5:10-12**

Pastor Peter LaRuffa

November 11, 2018

### I. Don't pick a fight. Persecution is not good!

**Matt. 5:10-11** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Blessed are you** when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account."

Even King Jesus Himself prayed for a way out of His own persecution!

**Matt. 26:39** "And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.'"

Be careful! If you think persecution, in and of itself, is a blessed thing, you'll be prone to pick a fight instead of fight "the good fight" (**2 Tim. 4:7**). You'll pursue opposition, the foolish controversy, the fruitless debate...instead of pursuing kingdom living like Jesus.

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### Grace Singles Friendsgiving

Join us for a time of fellowship & thanksgiving on **Sat, Nov 17**. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

Got children? Bring 'em along! Register at [graceky.org/singles](https://graceky.org/singles)



### Grace Kids

#### • Family Christmas Movie •

On **Nov 24**, bring your family for a Family Christmas Movie, *The Star!* Holiday treats will be served!

**6 – 8:30pm**

More info @ [graceky.org/events](https://graceky.org/events)



### Student Ministry

#### • Winter Retreat •

Winter Retreat registration opens **TODAY**. It's January 18-20 @ Hocking Hills. All 6th-12th graders invited!

More info @ [graceky.org/events](https://graceky.org/events).

**II. Don't be surprised. Kingdom people should expect to be persecuted!**

**2 Tim. 3:12** “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted...**”

**John 15:20** “Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master’ **If the persecuted me, they will also persecute you...**”

**III. Don't be distracted or dissuaded by how it feels. Righteous, kingdom living is a good thing!**

**Matt. 5:12** “**Rejoice and be glad**, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

If we're persecuted, reviled, or falsely accused, it feels bad or like we're doing something wrong. Jesus tells us to rejoice, and goes on to tell us to live like the Kingdom people that we are, being salt and light in a dark and decaying world.

**Matt. 5:13-16** “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

**IV. Don't forget where your citizenship is and your reward is waiting—in heaven!**

**Matt. 5:10,12** “...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...Rejoice and be glad, **for your reward is great in heaven**, for they so persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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**Phil 3:8,10** “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death...”

**V. Don't forget who was persecuted for righteousness' sake—before us and for us—King Jesus!**

King Jesus became poor for us. (**2 Cor. 8:9**)

King Jesus mourns. (**Luke 19:41**)

King Jesus was meek. (**Isa. 53:7**)

King Jesus longed to make things right and will. (**John 4:34**)

King Jesus is merciful. (**John 8:11**)

King Jesus is pure. (**Heb. 7:26**)

King Jesus is peacemaking. (**2 Cor. 5:18-19**)

King Jesus was persecuted for righteousness sake. (**Matt. 26-28**)

**Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:**

- (1) Do you have any “hobby horses”? What are the things that get you riled up, and perhaps can tempt you to “pick a fight” when you encounter them?
- (2) Think of the last time you were “persecuted” or “reviled.” Was it because you were living reflecting Kingdom virtues listed in the Beatitudes? Or did you pick a fight and claim to be a martyr in so doing?
- (3) Do you think it's helpful to have some level of familiarity with how our brothers and sisters are being persecuted in other parts of the world? Why or why not?
- (4) Find yourself in the Beatitudes. Does one Beatitude resonate with you more than the others? Why?
- (5) Which Beatitude(s) seems to be the most “upside down” to you? Why?

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