



## Questions:

1. Have you ever been persecuted for your actions or beliefs?
2. Can there be blessing for the persecuted that doesn't condone the persecution?
3. What does it mean to be persecuted "for righteousness sake?"
4. In what ways does light shine in brokenness and persecution?

## EPISODE TITLE: "Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted"

The Be@itudes, Episode 8

### Featured Guest: Audrey deCoursey

Audrey has served in diverse pastoral contexts, from fast-paced urban hospitals to suburban congregations to launching a new online worship community, Living Stream Church of the Brethren. She was ordained in 2009 in Illinois.

She holds a Masters of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, where she concurrently studied for a Certificate in Women's Studies in Religion from the Graduate Theological Union. While in seminary, she was blessed to join two campus delegations abroad: in 2006, she traveled to the American Samoan territory and Independent Samoa; in 2008, she visited Uganda and Rwanda. Throughout her three years, she served as Editor-in-Chief of Pacific School of Religion's monthly journal, LOGOS, and served as Pastor-in-Training at a United Methodist Church.

### **Pneuma Divina Scripture: Matthew 5:10 and 2 Corinthians 4: 6-11**

10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

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