4. It’s almost like Jesus is saying to them (and us), “This isn’t about someone else. This is about _______!

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

5. Focus on what you cannot YET see but you know it is a ________________.

a. Almighty God is a reality. I’ve seen His __________.

b. Almighty God loves me. I’ve experienced His __________.

c. Almighty God has a plan for me. I’ve seen it __________.

d. Why would this be so evident and obvious if there wasn’t going to be an inconceivably, awesome, forever-place for His own, called __________. Focus on that reality!

6. Jesus is telling us that our difficulties are temporary and are often the biggest opportunity to __________ who Christ is in our lives.

Matthew 5:10  “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11  “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12  Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1. This passage is the call to each of us to do whatever it takes to further the cause of Christ, no matter what the __________________________.

2. God blesses those who are persecuted for serving the people He puts in their path. The people you are serving will realize you are ___________ or __________ ___ because you are a follower of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:10  God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

1 Peter 4:12-19

3. These passages are not about the fact you suffer. These passages are about suffering for ______________ __________.

Matthew 5:11  God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you (WHY?) 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.