

***Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted for Being Christ,  
The Reign of God is Yours***

I felt an anger welling up inside of me  
And in my bewilderment, I asked:  
How could the persecuted feel blessed?

And the persecuted ones replied:  
Why should we not drink of this cup?

The suffering that is most fulfilling  
Is the one that comes  
From standing by the side  
Of those who have no power.

It is not the suffering that we love so much  
It's the peace that comes  
from protecting what we cherish..  
There is no joy like the joy of being a voice  
For the voiceless.  
There is no peace like the peace  
that comes from speaking the truth.

For when conviction screams inside of you  
To let it live,  
When everything you believe in  
Becomes a song in you,  
Then dying's not so hard at all.

Blessed are you if you can believe that deeply,  
Blessed are you if you can care that passionately.  
Blessed are you if you can love like Jesus.

Yes, He came to cast a fire on the earth  
And I am almost certain  
He expects us to be part of the kindling.

Blessed are you if you can suffer persecution  
For the cause of right.  
Blessed are you if you can care that much  
and die that well and be that free.  
The Kingdom of heaven is yours!

*By Macrina Wiederkehr, from her book Season of Your Heart.*