

“Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

1. Discuss the first four Beatitudes.
 - a. Are you able to see how each leads to the next?

 - b. Why do you think “poor in spirit” is first?

 - c. What will happen if we aren’t poor in spirit?

2. Discuss your understanding of “righteousness.”
 - a. What have you understood this to mean?

 - b. How have you thought about it in connection with keeping the “Law” or rules?

 - c. Does the word stir any positive or negative thoughts or emotions for you?

3. Discuss the following definition: “Righteousness is a way of being that truly reflects the glorious character of God in whose image we were created.”
 - a. Read Leviticus 19:1-2 and discuss how this passage relates to this definition.

 - b. On what basis does God call His people to holiness?

 - c. How does this relate to God’s purpose for creating us (cf. Gen. 1:26-27)?

4. Read Romans 3:23.
 - a. How does this passage relate to Leviticus 19:1-2 and God’s purpose for our lives?

 - b. What is the standard that God is holding out to us, and what are your prospects for meeting it?

5. Read Hebrews 1:1-3.
 - a. What does this passage say that Jesus “speaks” or communicates to us?

 - b. Do you see a connection between the “radiance of His glory” and Romans 3:23? How did Jesus measure up to the standard of that verse?

- c. How might this passage connect with the idea that righteousness has become about Christlikeness?
 - d. Can you think of other passages that might present Christ as the new standard for righteousness?
6. Why do you think Jesus uses the concepts of hunger and thirst?
- a. What do these words communicate about human needs?
 - b. What do these words communicate about desire?
 - c. Discuss a time when you were especially hungry. How did this affect you? How did it affect your appreciation for the food you were finally able to eat?
7. How do our hunger and thirst for food and water relate to our hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- a. Do we need righteousness? Why or why not?
 - b. Do we desire righteousness? Why or why not?
 - c. How are you thinking and feeling about righteousness right now?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- a. What does this passage say about Jesus?
 - b. Discuss the phrase “in Him” at the end of this verse. Where does this say our righteousness comes from?
 - c. Do you think a person can be united to Christ (“in Him”) and be unaffected by what Jesus thinks or desires? Why or why not?
 - d. How are you affected by your relationship with Christ? What difference does it make in your daily routines?
 - e. Describe some things that would change in your daily life if you were able to visibly see your connection to Christ?

9. What is the promise of Matthew 5:6?
- a. Discuss the idea of “satisfaction”? What does this word communicate?

 - b. How does this promise relate to John 6:35?

 - c. Do you ever struggle with being assured of your salvation? If so, when are those struggles the greatest?

 - d. What might this say about what or who you are trusting in for your salvation in that moment? What does it mean to “cling to Christ,” and how will that shape your responses to doubt?

10. Is Jesus alone enough for you? Are you fully satisfied in Him?

- a. What things or people compete with Christ for your affections?

- b. What are you tempted to want in addition to Christ in order to feel satisfied?

- c. How might you be tempted to answer the following questions:

“If _____ changed, then I would be happy.”

“If I only had _____, then I would be happy.”