

Matthew 5:6

**What a happy estate have all those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
For it is they who shall be satisfied.**

**I. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst.”**

A. What Jesus did *not* say:

B. The analogy from physical hunger and thirst.

✓ To hunger and to thirst is to passionately \_\_\_\_\_ for that which to us is more \_\_\_\_\_ than all else.

C. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

1. Psalm 63:1 – O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
2. Psalm 84:2 – My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
3. Psalm 143:6 – I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
4. Psalm 119:131 – I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments.
5. Psalm 42:1-2 – As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

**II. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.”**

A. Righteousness in the Old Testament

1. When the Old Testament speaks of *God’s* righteousness it’s usually, if not *always* referring to the \_\_\_\_\_ that God gives to His people.
2. When the Old Testament speaks of *man’s* righteousness, it often refers to a \_\_\_\_\_ of right living.
  - a. In the Bible, God’s \_\_\_\_\_ are supremely righteous.
    - i. Deuteronomy 4:8 – And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?
    - ii. Psalm 119:172 – My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.
    - iii. Romans 7:12 – So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.
  - b. So it is those who \_\_\_\_\_ *God’s laws* who are said to be righteous.
    - ✓ Psalm 18:20-24 – The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all his rules were before me, and his statutes I did not put away from me. I was blameless before

him, and I kept myself from my guilt. So the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

- c. As the opposite of the righteous (Psalm 1:6; 45:7), the wicked are those who \_\_\_\_\_ *God's laws*.
  - i. Psalm 119:53 – Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law.
  - ii. Proverbs 28:4 – Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law strive against them.

B. What is the true nature of God's Law?

1. God's Righteous Law flows straight from God's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. So to hunger and thirst for righteousness is to hunger and thirst for more of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_...
  - a. **More** of *HIS* holy will for us.
  - b. **More** of *HIS* character to be reproduced in us.
  - c. **More** of *HIS* ways to be the paths in which we walk.
3. Righteousness is the holy life of God \_\_\_\_\_ out in and through us.
4. We can't truly \_\_\_\_\_ over sin (5:4) without a corresponding hunger and thirst for righteousness.

**III. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."**

A. Psalm 63:5-6 – My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

B. Who are the "they"?

1. God addresses His promises of \_\_\_\_\_ specifically to those who are hungering and thirsting.
  - a. Isaiah 55:1 – Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
  - b. Psalm 107:9 – For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.
  - c. John 7:37-38 – On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"
2. "There is perhaps no greater secret of \_\_\_\_\_ in Christian living than a healthy, hearty spiritual appetite." (Stott)

C. Who are the "they"?

1. Jesus addresses His promise of satisfaction specifically to those who hunger and thirst *for righteousness*.
2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ hungering and thirsting for something. The question is: for what?
  - a. Matthew 4:1-4 – Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- b. John 4:31-34 – Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”
- c. Only the food of righteousness will ever truly \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Sometimes, instead of hungering and thirsting for righteousness, we hunger and thirst for \_\_\_\_\_ and blessedness.
  - a. The analogy of physical hunger and thirst.
  - b. When it comes to our spiritual appetite, it is so easy for us to spend all our time and energy longing for the feeling of satisfaction that Jesus promises us, when what we’re supposed to be longing for is the \_\_\_\_\_ itself!
  - c. With *what* does Jesus promise that we will be satisfied? With \_\_\_\_\_!
- D. One day, for all those who have hungered and thirsted for righteousness, there will be perfect and never-ending satisfaction.
  - 1. 1 John 3:2 – Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.
  - 2. 2 Peter 3:13 – But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
  - 3. Revelation 7:15-17 – Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

## Conclusion

- A. We hunger and thirst, but for \_\_\_\_\_ things.
- B. We hunger and thirst for spiritual satisfaction and blessedness, but not for the food of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 4:20-5:21).
- C. It is our failure to *hunger and thirst*... for *righteousness*, which explains why we are **less** than *satisfied* in our Christian lives.
- D. The full and perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ.
  - 1. Philippians 3:7-9 – But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 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 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.
  - 2. 1 Corinthians 1:30 – He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.
  - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:21 – For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Teaching our Children

Q. What are the first three beatitudes?

A. See Matthew 5:3-5

Q. What is the fourth beatitude?

A. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

Discuss with your children what it means to hunger and thirst. (See I. B. & C.)

Q. As citizens of the kingdom of heaven, what are we supposed to be hungering and thirsting *for*?

A. We are to be hungering and thirsting for *righteousness*.

Q. In the Bible, what is the opposite of righteousness?

A. Wickedness / sin.

Q. What do the wicked always forsake and turn away from?

A. The wicked forsake and turn away from God's law.

Q. If the wicked are people who forsake God's law, then who are the righteous?

A. The righteous are those who *keep* God's laws.

Q. What do God's laws show us?

A. They show us how the wonderful holiness of *God* can actually be lived out in our *own* lives! This is the *righteousness* that Jesus was talking about. (SEE II. B. 2. and discuss; See also Ephesians 4:20-5:21)

Q. When, we are really, truly *mourning* because of *sin*, we will always be faithful to do what?

A. We will always be faithful to *hunger and thirst for righteousness*.

Q. When we are faithful to hunger and thirst for righteousness, what does Jesus promise will happen? (All those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be...)

A. Jesus promises that we will be satisfied. (See Scriptures under III. B. I.)

Q. Many times, instead of hungering and thirsting for righteousness, we hunger and thirst for...

A. Worldly fun / money and possessions (stuff) / physical more than spiritual  
(See Scriptures under III. C. 2.)

We hunger and thirst for the feeling of being satisfied/full (instead of hungering for the food itself – righteousness).

Q. In light of what Jesus said in Matthew 5:6, why do you think that sometimes we don't feel very "satisfied" in our Christian lives?

A. Because we are not *hungering and thirsting* enough for righteousness (for God's holiness to be lived out in us)!

Reflect on the perfect and never-ending satisfaction that God will give one day to all those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. (See Scriptures under III. D.)

Reflect on the full and perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ that we can receive by faith. (See Scriptures under Conclusion / D.)

***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."***