The Beatitudes:
"Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness"
Matthew 5:6

A most remarkable desire produced in the life of a believer by the Spirit of God!

1. Blessedness Defined

(1) Gk: MAKARIOS - "blessed" "happy" "completely fulfilled"

(2) Used of the Greeks to describe the experience of the gods

(3) cf. Matt. 16:17 & context

- One to whom God has drawn near; one whom God has drawn near to Himself
- One in whom God is evidently working!

2. The Characteristic indicating Blessedness: Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness

(1) The <u>Object</u> of Desire: Righteousness!

-1- Contrast the desires of the Natural Man

-2- Three aspects of this desire for righteousness

- To be right with God – to be free from the guilt of sin & to be righteous before God

- To be free from the power of sin

- To be free from the presence and effects of sin

(2) The <u>Nature</u> of this Desire

-1- A <u>spiritual</u>, not a natural characteristic!

-2- Its <u>foundation</u> or prerequisite (cf. the order here)

- knowing my true spiritual poverty
- mourning over such
- made meek

-3- The <u>power of the analogy</u>

- A pain!

- A life or death matter!

- Must be satisfied!

3. The Privilege Bestowed and Enjoyed *"they shall be filled"*

- True spiritual thirst *must be* satisfied, and *is* satisfied!
- It is satisfied in a Person! The Lord Jesus Christ!

Further Application: Some tests or proofs of such desire:

The Order and Arrangement of the Beatitudes:

1. The Christian in *his disposition before God*

(1) One who is poor in spirit	v.3	
(2) One who mourns	v.4	attitude
(3) One who is meek	v.5	
(4) One who hungers for righteousness	v.6	activity

2. The Christian in *his disposition toward others*

(1) One who is merciful	v.7	attitude
(2) One who is pure in heart	v.8	
(3) One who is a peacemaker	v.9	activity

3. The *World's disposition toward the Christian*

Persecution vv. 11-12