

# Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness



**Matthew 5:6**

- The Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew Chapters 5-7, contains the words of Jesus Christ as He taught His disciples at the outset of His earthly ministry.
- Matthew 5:1-12, begins with the “beatitudes” which describes the character of every Kingdom citizen.

A. As we study these Eight Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:1-10, it will help us to grow in our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

1. I believe we will learn the distinguishing marks of what it means to be a true Christian and not a carnal Christian.
2. I believe it will cause us to search our own hearts and view our own lives from Christ’s perspective and not the world’s perspective.
3. I believe these qualities reveal the true character of the citizens of the Kingdom of God. The blessing for every Kingdom citizen is the hope and glorious reward that we can expect both now and for eternity.

- The Purpose: to teach us what it truly means to be a true follower of Jesus Christ.
- The Goal: to make us aware of our need for God and to help us to pursue a life that is well-pleasing in the sight of God.
- The word “blessed” is known to mean happy or fortunate. There is a happiness that supersedes what’s happening around us – that is the inner joy and peace that Jesus Christ gives to every true believer.

○ Lessons Taught:

1. (Matthew 5:3) – Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  - Being “poor in spirit” is to be in spiritual poverty; to be conscious of one’s continual dependence on God.
  - Being “poor in spirit” is a personal awareness and recognition before God, that there is nothing in us, about us, that warrants any sense of self-sufficiency.

2. **Matthew 5:4), “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”**
  - The word “mourn” means to feel or express grief or sorrow; to have a broken heart over or to be in wailing.
  - It is a deep sorrow or to be broken hearted over the state of the world due to sin and the destruction it causes in the life of both believers and unbelievers.
  - It is a sorrow not just for one’s own personal sins, but also sorrow because of the state and condition of our world.
  
3. **(Matthew 5:5) – Blessed are the meek or humble, for they shall inherit the earth.”**
  - Jesus Christ is our greatest example of meekness that every believer can learn and grow from. He was God in flesh – He was equal with God – He was 100% God and 100% man (God-Man). (Philippians 2:5-8)
  - Jesus Christ demonstrated meekness by His willingness to sacrifice His life for the life of many. (John 3:16, John 4:34, John 9:4-5)
  - The word “meek” means mild tempered, gentle, or humble.
    1. The word “meekness” does not mean weakness. In other words, it means power under control. (Proverbs 16:32, 25:28)
    2. It is not a person who relies on their wisdom, strength, gifts, talent and abilities, but those who relies upon Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
    3. It is not a person who is prideful and arrogant. It is not someone who views themselves superior over others
    4. It is not a person who promotes themselves and their agenda above God and His agenda.

## **Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness – Matthew 5:6**

- Jesus says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (vs. 6)

1. The word “blessed” means happy or fortunate.
    - The natural body can’t sustain itself for long periods of time without food and water – eventually our physical bodies will begin to breakdown (malnourished).
    - This is also true spiritually. Without Jesus Christ, and His Word every believer, no matter age, race, gender will end up being spiritually malnourished.
  2. Just as a person desires physical food, every believer should desire spiritual food from the Word of God. (Matthew 4:4, 1 Peter 2:2-3, 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, John 4:14, Psalm 34:8)
  3. Jesus would use tangible metaphors to help His hearers understand His message. He would use physical realities (food, water, bread, door, birth, wind) to teach spiritual truths.
  4. Jesus Christ is the only one who can satisfy the longing in your life. (John 4:14)
    - (John 4:14) – “Jesus tells the woman at the well that, ‘whoever drinks the water that I give them will never thirst...’”
    - The challenge for us today is to examine our spiritual appetite to determine whether or not you are spiritually healthy or spiritually sick.
    - Having the wrong food will surely leave you spiritually malnourished – not because you’re not eating, but because you are eating all the wrong food.
    - Some saints are so full of the world that they have lost their spiritual appetite for God.
- A. Notice again what Jesus says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...” (vs. 6)
1. A person is made righteous because of Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:17, 3:10, 22, 4:4-8, 5:21, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
    - Jesus Christ bore our sins. He paid the price for our sins with His own Blood. (Romans 6:23, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Corinthians 6:20)

**2. Righteousness is both positional and personal.**

- **Positional – Through Jesus Christ’s death, burial and resurrection, every person that believes on His name shall be made righteous before God. (Ephesians 2:8-10)**
- **Personal – The choice is yours to choose to either live like Jesus Christ or live like those in the world (unbelievers). (2 Corinthians 5:17, Philipians 3:7-14, Romans 12:1-2)**

**3. To hunger and thirst is to have a starving spirit and a parched soul that craves for righteousness.**

- **A person must hunger and thirst for all righteousness in order to live a fulfilled life. \*Spiritual Principle of Stewardship – which is God’s plan to fulfill our lives.**
- **The blessed believers are those who are not satisfied with just being saved – there is a genuine craving within them to live for Christ and to serve God with their entire being.**
- **The blessed believers understand that righteousness is more than a state of being but also a state of doing.**

**4. Righteousness in the Bible means being righteous and doing righteousness. We all heard this saying before – “Practice what you preach.”**

- **Self-righteousness is when a person believes that he is saved and acceptable to God because he does good works, is a good person, because he behaves morally, or keep certain rules and regulations.**
- **The Word of God is very clear on this matter of being self-righteous – you are not righteous and accepted by God by your doing but by Jesus Christ’s doing.**

**1) The blessed believers truly hunger and thirst (genuine craving) each and every day to live for Christ and bring glory and honor to His name.**

**2) The believer should also, never forget what God commands from each of His servants and that is to live a holy, sanctified and righteous life before Him and others. (1 Peter 1:13-16)**

- B. Jesus tells the believers, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, that they shall be filled or satisfied with both abundant life and eternal life. (vs. 6) (John 10:10)**
- 1. A believer should begin by acknowledging his/her need for Jesus Christ. (Mark 8:36-37, Matthew 6:33, Lamentations 3:22-23, Acts 2:1-4, Ephesians 5:18)**
  - 2. The joy for the believer is that we have a wonderful Helper called the Holy Spirit who lives in each of us. (John 16:7, John 7:38, Matthew 7:11)**
  - 3. The joy for the believer is the God of hope has promised to fill our lives with all joy and peace, that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)**
  - 4. The joy for the believer is that through Christ, God will fill us with the knowledge of His will. (Colossians 1:9)**
  - 5. The joy for the believer is that through Christ, God will fill us with His goodness and fill us with all knowledge. (Romans 15:14)**
  - 6. The joy for the believer is that through Christ, God will fill us with the fruits of righteousness. (Philippians 1:11)**
    - Jesus told the story of a man who threw a banquet and invited people to come. He sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, “Come, for all things are now ready. But they all with one accord began to make excuses...” (Luke 14:15-24)**
      - 1) Their life was full (they had no appetite for God).**
      - 2) Their schedule was full (they had no time for God).**
      - 3) Those who genuinely hunger and thirst for His righteousness, shall be filled or satisfied.**