

The Sermon on the Mount
Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness
Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled (satisfied).” Matthew 5:6. St. Augustine wrote “Thou hast made us for thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee”

Here we come to the logical conclusion to the first three beatitudes—hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Many people are unhappy spiritually for they will not accept God’s solution. When seeking God and his righteousness we must seek it like a drowning man searches for air. It is the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ that he has obtained our redemption and provides the righteousness that we seek through faith.

We are not hungering and thirsting after an experience or even after blessedness. If we want to be truly happy we must hunger and thirst after the righteousness that only God can provide. Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of heaven and his righteousness.” Matthew 6:33

In this pursuit we are not willing to settle for less than God desires, and we are not willing to substitute our own goodness for Gods. Anyone who seeks true happiness must seek after not mere righteousness but perfect righteousness. That can only be the righteousness of God—nothing less will satisfy. Have you come to the place that you desperately seek the righteousness of God over all else? This kind of righteousness comes only when you seek God over all else and turn away from you own attempts to earn that goodness.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” John 6:35. Are you feeding on the things that will not satisfy? What are you hungry for?

As we stand in meekness before God, we realize that the only hope we will ever have of knowing righteousness is to seek it at his hand. King David said, “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God,” Psalms 42:2. This is the way of true life. A desperation that only God can satisfy!

JN Darby said, “To be hungry is not enough. I must be really starving to know what it is in God’s heart toward me.” Luke 1:53 states, “He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed.”

Also see Psalms 107:9

