

The Gospel of Matthew #29

Sermon on the Mount: How to Be Happy

#4: HAPPY ARE THE HUNGRY

Matthew 5:6

I. What does this Hunger & Thirst refer to?

Hunger and thirst is a picture of deep longing that won't be denied; that must have its needs met

It is a hunger and thirst for **righteousness**:

Root idea: conformity to a norm. The way something ought to be. Righteousness is the character of God. Absence of all evil.

- A. To _____ righteous
Aware of their unrighteousness. Long to be made righteous
- B. To _____ right
To please God by doing right things for right reasons
- C. To see everything _____ right
Long to see an end to all that is evil in the world.
- D. To work for righteousness _____
Cannot long for it There without desiring to see more of it Here

II. How is this related to previous three?

- A. Poverty of spirit: admit I lack righteousness
- B. Mourn: grieve my lack
- C. Gentle: as I am humbled, I am more gentle with others
- D. This hunger is a broader description of my changed heart

III. What is the meaning of the promise?

Jesus is our Righteousness. He fills this thirst with Himself:

- A. He gives you the Gift of His righteousness: II Cor 5:21
Double imputation: He takes your sin and pays for it;
He gives you His righteousness as a covering
You are declared righteous once and forever
Remind yourself of this every day

B. He is making you more righteous in experience:
Rom 6:16-18

He is changing your heart: your actions and desires

Do not lose heart

C. He will come again and renew the earth as a Kingdom of perfect righteousness forever! Matt 6:10

D. So you work for that righteousness in this world, knowing that ultimately it will prevail.

And you continue to ache for sin to end.

Cultivate both the ache and the hope; it keeps your heart fixed on Heaven, where every good desire will be **filled**

Ask yourself:

What do you hunger and thirst for more than anything?

Recognize and admit the conflict between your temporal desires and your deepest heart desires. Connect this beatitude to the first three.

What gap in your righteousness most grieves you?

Ask Jesus how He would change that and begin the first step in faith.

What unrighteousness in the world about you most disturbs you?

Ask Jesus what He would have you do to make a difference? What will be your next step?