

Matthew: The Life & Teaching of Jesus the Messiah

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

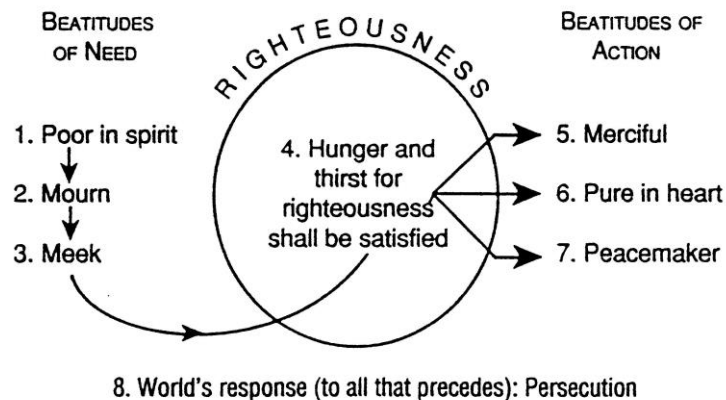
Key Idea: *Only those who have been redeemed by Christ are righteous in God's sight; and because they are positionally righteous, they hunger and thirst to be made inwardly righteous like their Redeemer.*

Lesson 15 Matt. 5:6 The Beatitudes: Righteous Hunger (1-18-26)

THE PROGRESSION OF THOUGHT IN THE BEATITUDES

The Beatitudes are intimately related to one another and give a progression of thought. The first three beatitudes describe a disciple's confession of spiritual needs, whereas the fourth shows the resultant hunger of that need. The latter four beatitudes then set forth a disciple's active response to the promise that his hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied, whereas the last beatitude describes the unsaved world's response to him. We might diagram this relationship as follows:

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BEATITUDES



I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HUNGER & THIRST?

A. Relation to other beatitudes:

1. Up to this point Jesus' description of his disciples has been primarily n_____: A man understanding what he is n_____.
2. What is the positive attitude of a disciple in response to this negative self-awareness?

B. The Terms—Hungering and Thirsting

1. These are metaphors for i_____, f_____, even painful l_____.
2. Everything else falls by the w_____ (cf. Matt 6:33)

II. WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF THIS HUNGER? WHAT IS "RIGHTEOUSNESS"?

- A. We do not seek after righteousness as an a_____ principle.

B. The righteousness we seek is God's r_____ & God's righteousness can only be found _____

1. Our highest desire: to k_____ God (Ps. 42:1-2a; 63:1-2)
2. Objection: How can one know God? Do we know God or just about him?
 - a. Unbelief can know *about* Him; only believers know him because only they have the Spirit of Christ d_____ within them. If you are redeemed you will have this d_____.
 - b. Knowing God is s_____ in the same way as a good m_____.
 - c. Knowing God is s_____ only to those who already k_____ Christ. (John 4:13-14; 6:35; 17:3)

Application: Filling the God-shaped vacuum and the world's counterfeits:

C. We are to hunger and thirst for h_____.

1. Because s_____ separates from God, so disciples separate themselves from s_____
 - a. The desire to k_____ God comes with the concomitant desire to be l_____ him.
 - b. We come to a_____ what God abhors (Rom. 12:9) and v_____ the things that God values.
 - (1) Practically, we seek to be righteous in the various r_____ that God puts us in.
 - (2) Jesus' disciples also hunger and thirst to see righteousness d_____ in the world.

III. HUNGERING & THIRSTING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS BOTH PASSION & ACTION

A. Hungering and thirsting is firstly a passion of the h_____, but the internal passion inevitably manifests itself in a_____.

1. First, ruthlessly s_____ oneself from sin. (Matt. 5:29-30; Rom. 8:13; II Cor. 5:14-15)
2. Second zealously pursue righteousness through the m_____ that Christ has given us.
 - Flee immorality, but then pursue righteousness (I Tim. 6:11, 12; II Tim. 2:22); Put off and put on (Col. 3:8-10)
3. Three ways to "put on": (a.) Faithfully attend p_____ w_____.
(b.) Fellowship with the s_____.
(c.) Engage in private w_____ and p_____.
 - You don't have to c_____ God's people to go up to the house of the Lord. (Ps. 84:1,2a, 10)
 - You don't have to t_____ them to their Bibles (Ps. 119:11, 97; 119:11)
 - You actually want to s_____ time with fellow Christians and for good reason! (I Cor. 11:29, I John 3:14; Eph. 5:22): _____
 - Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness have a zeal for p_____.
 - (1) Both p_____ and p_____ (John 15:5; Ps. 46:1)
 - (2) We need s_____ and apart from Him we can do n_____.

Application: But isn't this "legalism"—and a lot of work?

IV. WHAT IS THE PROMISE OF SATISFACTION?

A. Chortazo: to satiate, fill an animal to the point of contentment.

B. This is an ex_____ promise: Only those who genuinely hunger and thirst are filled, not those who play at r_____ or have "tried" c_____.

1. You'll never find r_____ or c_____ in yourself.
2. In knowing God, you find the only one who can bestow righteousness and everlasting p_____ (Phil. 4:7; I Peter 1:8)