

Exceptional Righteousness

Chapter 5

Audio lesson: Sermon on the Mount 5



Objective: To understand the fourth beatitude and learn what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness. (Text: Matthew 5:1-6)



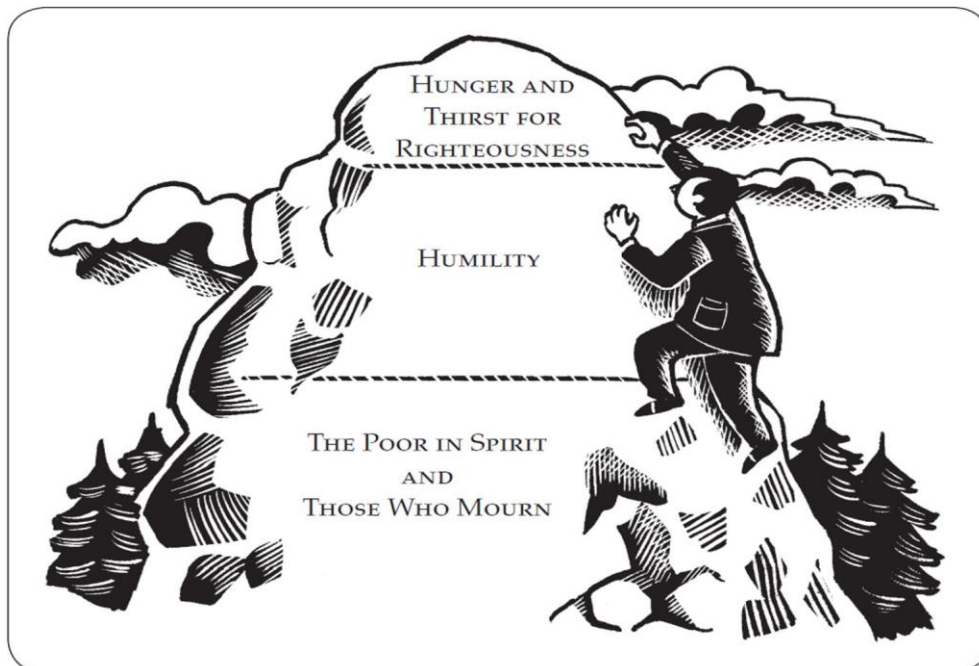
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

—Matthew 5:6

When we are meek, seeking God’s leadership, we develop a hunger for righteousness—the desire to live our lives with the goal of pleasing God. We want to know what is right and do what is right. What you do and how you act are important to God. We are called to do what is right—not just what is expedient. That is what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness.

We now see a pattern emerging in the beatitudes. They come in pairs. We mourn while we are learning to be poor in spirit, and when we become meek we will hunger and thirst for righteousness. To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to zealously desire to know what is right—especially what is right for us.

The promise that accompanies this beatitude is that we will be filled with the righteousness for which we hunger and thirst. This also means that we will be filled completely with the Holy Spirit of God. It is He who is true righteousness and who causes us to know what He wants us to do.



1. The fourth beatitude is “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after _____ for they will be _____.”

2. True or false? A desire to do what is right implies a desire to correct what is wrong.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

3. What promise does Jesus give to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness?

- a. They will no longer sin.
- b. They will become more righteous than others.
- c. They will be filled, or satisfied.
- d. They will be rewarded for their works.

4. What kind of righteousness is Jesus talking about?

- a. God’s justice and values
- b. Doing what is right
- c. Personal integrity
- d. All of the above

5. Jesus gives us direction on ordering our priorities in Matthew 6:33. According to this verse, what place should righteousness have in our lives? _____

6. Read 1 Peter 2:24. According to this verse, why did Jesus die for our sins?

- a. For our righteousness
- b. So we would die to sin
- c. Both a and b
- d. Neither a nor b

7. Read Isaiah 61:3. According to this verse, why are we called to be righteous?

- a. So others will want to be righteous too
- b. So we can be confident before God
- c. Because God commands obedience
- d. So God will be glorified

8. Read Psalm 4:5. In this verse, what is righteousness linked with?

- a. Trust
- b. Obedience
- c. Worship
- d. Diligence

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

—Matthew 6:33

[He] Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

—1 Peter 2:24

“That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

—Isaiah 61:3

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.

—Psalm 4:5



What are the things in your life which keep you from seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? What are your challenges to living a righteous life? What does God want you to do with these challenges?



Thank God for His righteousness, purity, and justice. Ask Him to develop hunger and thirst for righteousness in you and to satisfy you fully.



Going Deeper

1. Explain what Jesus meant when He said, “Your righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.” _____

2. What kind of “righteousness” did the Pharisees have? _____

3. What kind of “righteousness” is Jesus advocating? _____

4. What is the promise of the fourth beatitude? _____

5. Pastor Woodward talks about the temptation to do the “expedient thing” rather than the “right thing.” What are some areas in your life where you are tempted to take the easy way, rather than seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? _____

6. What would the “sacrifice of righteousness” mean for you? _____

7. What are the things in your life that keep you from seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? _____
