

The Beatitudes
“Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness”
The Week of May 5, 2024
Matthew 5:6

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“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied...”

- Who does Jesus mean by “those who hunger and thirst for righteousness”?

- Why would being hungry and thirsty often be an unattractive quality to us?

- Maturing means an increasing hunger, and a good church is a hungry church. Think of a person you know that truly longs for Jesus to return. Why do they have such a strong desire? How is God glorified in their longing?

- Jesus knows that we are always attempting to manage spiritual hunger and thirst through self-feeding (distractions, numbing ourselves, indulging) and self-denial (I know I should not feel that way). Why are these strategies guaranteed to fail?

- What does Jesus mean by “righteousness” and “satisfied”?

- Which of the following three aspects of hunger and satisfaction most strikes a chord with you today? Why?
 1. We all have a hunger to be justified and a longing to be right with God. Jesus is saying: if you hunger to be justified, you will be satisfied (II Corinthians 5:21).
 2. We all have a hunger to be changed and a longing to be renewed. Jesus is saying: If you hunger to be sanctified and glorified, you will be satisfied (II Corinthians 3:18).
 3. We all have a hunger to see all things made new. Jesus is saying: If you hunger for the Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, you will be satisfied (Matthew 6:10).

- Pray together in light of this week’s beatitude. Christ-like hunger for righteousness is marked by a longing to be justified, to be changed, and for all things to be set right. Ask God for grace for all of us to turn to Jesus when we feel that hunger.