

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Lesson: #5

Title: The Hungry and Thirsty

Scripture: Matthew 5: 6

Date: 6-14-2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Matthew 5: 6: Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Someone said that the word "righteousness" in this statement means all spiritual blessings. It may mean that. But all spiritual blessings are only blessings because they are in Christ Jesus. The easiest way to sum up all that is included in this word "righteousness" is to say it is a hunger and a thirst after Christ Jesus, the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

First, the blessed man hungers and thirsts to hear the gospel of Christ for therein is the righteousness of God revealed.

Romans 1: 16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe because Christ is the Power of God unto salvation.

I Corinthians 1: 23: But we preach Christ crucified,...24:...Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Jeremiah 23: 6: In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

1 Corinthians 1:30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Christ Jesus, the Son of God--THE PERSON--is the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Word. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The righteousness of God is manifest in his work.

Romans 3: 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22: Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ... unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26: To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

We do rejoice in the work of Christ and the righteousness of God manifest in his finished work, but Christ Jesus is truly the Righteousness of God. Christ Jesus the Lord, the Son of God, is the gospel we preach. Only when Christ Jesus is revealed in a sinner do we begin to understand something of what the righteousness of God really is.

This hungering and thirsting is created the more we learn of Christ through the gospel of Christ, the Power and Wisdom of God. Therefore, the blessed man hungers and thirsts to hear the gospel of Christ our Righteousness because he hungers and thirsts after Christ the Righteous.

THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED HUNGER AND THIRST TO REST IN THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS ALONE

Secondly, we hunger and thirst to be turned from all unrighteousness to rest in the righteousness of Christ Jesus alone. This hungering and thirsting is twofold.

One, the blessed man hungers and thirsts to be turned away from any thought of making ourselves righteous by our works of obedience under the law and to rest in the righteousness of faith, that is the righteous obedience of Christ Jesus alone.

Romans 10: 4: For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. 5: For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. 6: But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, 8:...The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11: For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Two, by the grace of God that brings this salvation, the blessed man is taught how exceedingly sinful our sin is. Our sins are altogether contrary to all righteousness. By the grace of God, we hunger and thirst for God to turn us away from all ungodliness in ourselves that we might live with nothing clouding our vision as we look for the return of our Savior.

I Timothy 2: 11: For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12: Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14: Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

The only way either of these is accomplished is by the Spirit of God increasing our knowledge and understanding of Christ Jesus. The more we grow to behold that Christ is our righteousness and our sanctification then the more are we made to hunger and thirst after him; the more we are made to look away from our own righteousness and to turn from our own ungodliness to rest in the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. It is only through the renewing of the new man day-by-day that Grace reigns in our heart through the righteousness of Christ so that sin shall not have dominion over us.

THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED HUNGER AND THIRST TO BE FREE FROM THIS BODY OF SIN

Thirdly, the more we see Christ through faith, the more we behold the sin that we are in this flesh, the more we behold the sin of this world, and the more we hunger and thirst to be free from this body of death and perfectly conformed to the image of Christ.

Romans 8:23: And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

2 Corinthians 5:2: For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Psalm 17: 15: As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST SHALL BE FILLED

Matthew 5: 6: Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Has Christ blessed you so that you hunger and thirst after the righteousness revealed through the gospel? The Lord Jesus Christ says you shall be filled.

Ps 65:4 Blessed *is the man whom* thou choosest, and causest to approach *unto thee, that* he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, *even* of thy holy temple.

Isaiah 25:6: And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

Ps 19:7: The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

Has Christ blessed you so that you hunger and thirst to be turned from all unrighteousness to rest in Christ the Righteous? The Lord Jesus Christ says you shall be filled.

Ps 23:3: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Has Christ Jesus blessed you so that you desire to be perfectly conformed to his image? He says you shall be filled.

Philippians 3: 20: For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.