

Cheltenham
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The Happy Life (4)

Blessed are those who hunger

Message Notes

Matthew 5:6, "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*"

Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst**

Hunger and thirst is something we know little about in Australia but most of Jesus' audience would have been well acquainted with both of these things – as are many people in the world...

Jesus' original audience would have got the message of an all-consuming passion for righteousness.

"Blessed are those who strive for righteousness with the same earnestness with which the hungry and thirsty seek food and drink" (Kenneth E. Bailey, Jesus through Middle Eastern eyes)

When we hunger and thirst for righteousness we desire the most priceless thing in existence...

Text: Matthew 13:44-46

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst **for righteousness**

Righteousness then is the 'favorable standing' that a person has in the eyes of others who now know he's innocent (comment and apply to what Jesus did, our relationship with God & the gift of righteousness)

2 Corinthians 5:21, *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

Romans 5:17, *"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!"*

But just in case we think that this gracious gift of righteousness doesn't lead to a change of life...

Romans 6:13, *"Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."*

Righteousness is the approval of God, then, out of relationship, we do what God approves

Acts of righteousness include integrity, virtue, and purity of life, correctness of thinking, feeling & acting – especially with justice. God has treated us with righteousness and justice and that’s how He wants us to treat others...

Job 29:14-16, *"I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger"*

Isaiah 42:3, *"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice"*

A bruised reed = the tender care that props and supports (he will not break)

The smoldering wick = the wick of a lamp nearly out (he will not snuff out). He will nurture and cherish and feed the spiritual life, all but extinguished, with oil till it burns brightly again.

Micah 6:6-8, *"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

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

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

There's nothing that comes close to being satisfied by God!