

## The Beatitudes: Growing in our walk with Jesus (Part 4)

### Recap:

As a recap, Beatitudes come from the Latin word *Beatus* meaning both happy and blessed. The Beatitudes are for those who follow Jesus that is for His disciples of Jesus. Citizens of the kingdom of God.

Jesus' first commandment was Matt 22:37,39 "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*" and verse 39 says "*And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"

The beatitudes are divided into two groups of 4. The first group emphasizes the vertical relationship with God. The second group discusses our horizontal relationship with others.

The first 4 beatitudes are blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn (godly grief), the meek (power under control) and the hungry and thirsty – all these 4 depict how we should proceed with a connection with God.

In this study we are looking at:

#### **Matt 5:6**

***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled*** ("Filled is used in NIV and KJV)

ESV says "satisfied"

The parallel passage is found in Luke 6:21 and only speaks to the hunger. "*Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.*" – In Luke there is no mention of thirsting and the word righteousness.

Let's look at one element at a time. I will focus on the words highlighted in red.

1. **Blessed** – Greek word "Makarios" Mak means extend; charis means "grace and favour" – it literally means may "God's grace be extended to you"
2. Hunger and thirst – people of the time understood hunger and thirst.

What are some general observations we can make on hunger and thirst?

- When we are hungry and thirsty our thoughts and focus will be on the next meal or the next drink. Other things will be set aside to satisfy our hunger and thirst. Spiritually when we are hungry and thirsty, we constantly focus on the things of God

- When we are sick, we lose our appetite.
- The dead are neither hungry nor thirsty.
  - How often do we hunger and thirst? In the natural at least twice a day so in the spiritual – Joshua was told to meditate on the book of the law, day and night. Josh 1:8

If we are missing spiritual hunger or thirst, it could be that we are spiritually dead or spiritually unwell.

2a) **Hunger** = Greek word in the Bible is *peinaō* pronounced pie-nah-oh means to be hungry, to suffer want, to be needy, to crave ardently, to seek with eager desire. The same word used to describe Jesus' hunger after 40 days of fasting! Matt 4:2 and Luke 4:2

Let's look at some Scriptures on the theme of hunger and the food that satisfies.

- John 6:27 Jesus says *"Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."*
- Similar theme in Isa 55:2 Isa 55:2 says *"Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food."*
- In the OT while the children of Israel were in the desert, God fed the people with manna which was given fresh every day. Manna in the wilderness was a foreshadowing of Jesus. Manna satisfied them from their hunger in the wilderness.
- In the OT there were 2 prophets who ate God's word:
  - Jer 15:16 *"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts."*
  - God tells Ezekiel to eat the word  
Eze 3:1-3 *"And he said to me, Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So, I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey."*
- John 6:35 Jesus said to them, *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*
- To get rid of our hunger we have to come to Him. That is, we have to make time for Him. Spend time in His presence. In His presence is fullness of joy.

- What are we feasting on? the Bread of Life! The Word, who is Jesus. This is the only way we can be satisfied in our hunger by coming to Jesus!
- John 6 we find the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. In Vs10 Jesus said, *“Have the people sit down...”* – there is a sense of anticipation that Jesus is going to feed them! Because they won’t be asked to sit down unless he was going to feed them. How many of us our sitting at the feet of Jesus with anticipation of being fed?
- We are to seek God first and we are to obey His word. We become satisfied when we obey and live by His word.
- In John 6:51 Jesus says, *“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”*
- When Jesus broke bread at the last supper – the bread signified His body broken for us. He wanted us to drink the cup and eat of the bread in remembrance of Him. Eating and drinking. Satisfaction of hunger and thirst is found in Him.

## 2b) Thirst

- John 4:13-15 *“Jesus said to her, everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”*
- John 7:37 *“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”*
- Rev 21:6 *And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment”*
- Rev 22:17 *“The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*

Being thirsty is connected with

- Believing in Him is the way to quench our thirst– John 6:35

- Drink of the water that Jesus gives us. Then out of our bellies will run rivers of living water. This is referencing the Holy Spirit
  - Jesus gives us the water of life without payment – this refers to the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It cannot be bought!
  - The last verse says if we “desire” we are to take the water of life – there is no end to this supply
3. **Being filled** – the same Greek word (chartadzo) it is a specific word used in connection with hunger and was used in the context of the feeding of the 5000. The people were “filled” in Matt 14:20

**Who fills us? Can we fill our own hunger and thirst?**

Psalm 107:8-9 *“Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.”*

Psalm 34:8-10 *“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.”*

-It is God who does the filling

4. What is **Righteousness?**

The primary Hebrew word for “righteous” in the Old Testament is “*tsaddiyq*” (Strong’s: 6662). It is interesting to note that this word is used to describe only one man in the whole Old Testament: Noah. However, “*tsaddiyq*” is used to describe God in numerous places in the Old Testament. When we get to the New Testament, the Greek word “*dikaio*s” dik'-ah-yos (Strong’s: 1342) is used to describe those who are called “righteous.” Both “*tsaddiyq*” and “*dikaio*s” are also translated as “just” in some verses. The word Just is interchangeable with righteousness. God is called Just. Righteousness is the characteristic of God.

It means equitable (in character or act); by implication, innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively):—just, meet, right(-eous), perfect.

In a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God

- innocent, faultless, guiltless
- used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in the heart or life
- approved of or acceptable of God

It means being righteous before man and God. Matt 5:20 Jesus says our righteousness must be greater than the pharisees for us to enter heaven.

What does the Bible say about righteousness?

1. **God's characteristic is righteous.**
2. **We have to practice righteousness**

*"If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him."* 1 John 2:29 – **we are marked as believers in Christ by righteousness**

*"In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother."* 1 John 3:10 **Righteousness is something to be practiced**

Psalm 11:7 *"For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face"*. **If we practice righteousness, we can see His face**

Rom 3:10 *As it is written "none is righteous, no, not one;"* But then in Isa 64:6 *"all our righteousness is as filthy rags"*

3. **We are not righteous – it is the righteousness of God given to us through faith in Jesus Christ**

Rom 3:21-26 *"But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:*

*Phil 3:9 not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—*

4. **Righteousness is imputed.** It is given to us. 2 Cor 5:21 *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*
5. **We are to wear righteousness** – Isa 59:17 put on righteousness as a breastplate; Isa 61:10 robe of righteousness; Isa 11:5 Righteousness is the belt at his waist; Eph 6:14 breastplate of righteousness - what is the breastplate protecting? Our heart. Prov 4:23 *"Guard our heart Above all else guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."*

Can we increase in righteousness? Yes.

How do we increase or grow in righteousness? We need to hunger and thirst after righteousness

Using these the Hebrew and Greek words for righteousness, here are a list of those who are called "righteous" or "just" in the Bible.

**God the Father**- Dan 9:14 *“Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice.”*

John 17:25 *“O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.”*

**Jesus** Isa 53:11 *“Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.”*

**Noah** Gen 6:9 *“These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.”* Gen 7:1 *“Then the Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.” – Noah is found righteous for his obedience*

**Abel** Heb 11:4 *“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.” – Abel knew and obeyed God in bringing the acceptable sacrifice*

**Lot** 2 Peter 2:6-8 *“if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard.”*

**Cornelius** Acts 10:31 *“And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.” – prayers heard, and his giving was remembered by God*

**John the Baptist** Mark 6:20 *“for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.”*

**Zacharias and Elizabeth** Luke 1:5-6 *“In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.”*

**Noah, Daniel, and Job** were said by God to have “righteousness”. Eze 14:14, 20

**Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, and the prophets**, are said to have “wrought righteousness” (NASB: “performed acts of righteousness i.e. practiced righteousness”) Heb 11:32-33

**Melchizedek** means “King of righteousness.” Some say he was an OT appearance of Jesus.

Gen 14:18-20; Heb 7:1-2

**Abraham** – There is no verse in the Bible which calls Abraham specifically “*tsaddiyq*” or “*dikaios*”. Rather, the “*faith*” of Abraham was “credited as righteousness”. The Bible says “*the just shall live by faith*”. (Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38) Abraham was a man of faith (Heb 11:8-12).

Gen 15:6 “*And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness*” (Hebrew word “*tsaddiyq*”)

Rom 4:3 “*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*” (Greek word *diakaios*)

Rom 4:22 “*And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.*”

Gal 3:6 “*Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*”

Jas 2:23 “*And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*”

**What are the results of righteousness in our lives?**

“*Blessings are on the head of the righteous ... The memory of the righteous is a blessing ... The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life ... But the righteous is established forever.*” Prov 10:6-7, 11, 25.

“*Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and **all these things shall be added to you.***” Matt 6:31-33

“*Then the righteous will **shine forth** as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*” Matt 13:43

“*The **work** of righteousness will be **peace**, and the **effect** of righteousness, **quietness and assurance** (confidence in NIV) forever.*” Isa 32:17

“*And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous **into eternal life.***” Matt 25:46

“*You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the **oil of gladness** more than Your companions.*” Heb 1:9 – this is talking about Jesus

“*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*” 2 Tim 4:7-8

*"The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry."* Psa 34:15  
God hears the prayers of the righteous

Conclusion:

Our value system can be seen through how we spend our time and money. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness will impact our value system! Jesus says when we *seek first His kingdom and His righteousness all these things will be added unto us* Matt 6:33

To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to want

- i. God's rule in our lives.
- ii. Come to Jesus who is the Bread of Life.
- iii. Feed on the Word of God
- iv. Believe in Him. When we believe in Him, He quenches our thirst
- v. Obey Him
- vi. Jesus has imputed His righteousness to us. We are to put on His righteousness
- vii. Jesus fills us and satisfies us