

Becoming Righteous-5 6
Matthew 5:6

William Barclay said, “o bliss of the man who longs for total righteousness as a starving man longs for food, and a man perishing of thirst longs for water, for that man will be truly satisfied.”

This beatitude is in reality a question and a challenge

In effect it demands, “how much do you want righteousness?”

Do you want it as much as a starving man wants food and a dying man of thirst wants water

How intense is our desire for righteousness?

It speaks of the strong desire and driving pursuit of a passionate force inside the soul

It has to do with ambition, the ambition of the right sort in the object to honor, obey, and glorify God by partaking of His righteousness

Remember these beatitudes are precept upon precept.

The “poor in the spirit” sees his sin and his own spiritual bankruptcy, in mourning we lament and turn from our sin, in meekness we submit our own sinful ways to power and in hunger and thirst we seek God’s righteousness in Christ to replace our sin

It is that holy ambition is in great contrast to the common ambitions of men to gratify their own lusts, to accomplish their own goals, and to satisfy their own egos

Let me show you:

Is. 14:13-14—“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

Satan lusted for power, Satan’s name Lucifer means “star of the morning” he was not satisfied with living in God’s glory. His ambition was not to reflect God’s glory but to usurp God’s sovereign power with forsaking righteousness

Dan. 4:29-30—“ Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. 30 “The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?’

Nebuchadnezzar lusted after praise. He ruled over the greatness of all world empires and listen to the Lord’s response

Dan. 4:31-32—“31 “While the word was in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from

you, [32](#) and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

Luke 12:16-21—" And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. [17](#) "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' [18](#) "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. [19](#) 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" ' [20](#) "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' [21](#) "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The rich man lusted after pleasure. He had more than he could store in his barns.

Because these three hungered for the wrong things and rejected God's good things, they forfeited both

Jesus declares that the deepest desire of every person ought to be to hunger and thirst for righteousness

That is the spirit-prompted desire that will lead a person to salvation and keep him strong and faithful once he is in the kingdom

It is also the only ambition that, when fulfilled brings enduring happiness

Read verses

1) Pursuit Of The Starving-vs. 6

- a) St. Augustine said, "man is made for God and his soul will never find rest until it rests in Him."
- b) Hunger and thirst represent the necessities of physical life
- c) Jesus' analogy demonstrates that righteousness is required for spiritual life just as food and water are required for physical life
- d) Righteousness is not an optional spiritual supplement but a spiritual necessity
- e) Not to hunger for the things of God is like saying I am not going to go after any food or water, I just do not need any of that
- f) To be ordinary in our relationship with the Lord means that we get by on the basics, maybe we come to church, maybe we read our bibles, maybe we talk to God, maybe we really allow ourselves to get into worship
- g) But to hunger and thirst for righteousness is to desire that deep relationship with the Lord
- h) We are warned not to love the world
- i) **1 Jn. 2:15-17**—" **Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16](#) For all that is in the world, the**

lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. [17](#) The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

- j) Seeking satisfaction only in God and in His provision is a mark of those who come into His kingdom
- k) Those who belong to the King hunger and thirst for the King's righteousness
- l) They desire sin to be replaced with virtue and disobedience to be replaced by obedience
- m) They are eager to serve the Word and will of God
- n) Normally the verbs hungering and thirsting in the Greek are what is called genitive which carries the idea that the person is hungry for a piece of bread or a sip of water
- o) ILL-like going to the store when they have the people handing out samples**
- p) But here they are used in a different form called the direct accusative which changes the whole thing
- q) It means I am hungry for the whole loaf of bread and the whole pitcher of water
- r) Blessed are those who hunger for the whole of righteousness
- s) I do not want just a sample of it
- t) I want to have all of it

2) The Value of Salvation And Sanctification-vs. 6

- a) In salvation
- b) Righteousness for the unbeliever has as its goal salvation
- c) It brings the Holy Spirit to convicting the heart, realizing they are poor in spirit, mourning over their sin and pursuing to serve Him
- d) In sanctification
- e) This verse refers to not only that hunger and thirst that happened right before salvation
- f) But is also refers to the continual longing that is perpetuated in the heart of every saved person until their dying day
- g) If we longed to be saved by Christ we need to yearn to be made like Him
- h) That desire over and over to be more like Christ
- i) The great truth here is that the person who is blessed is not the one who achieves this righteousness but the one who longs for it with his whole heart
- j) Someone wrote, "to be hungry is not enough, I must be really starving to know what is in God's heart toward me. When the prodigal son was hungry he went to feed on the husks, but when he was starving he turned to his father."
- k) That is the hunger of which this beatitude speaks, the hunger for righteousness that only the father can satisfy

3) Assurance Of Satisfaction-vs. 6

- a) They shall be filled
- b) The giving of satisfaction is God's work
- c) Our part is to pursue to seek
- d) His part is to satisfy
- e) "filled"
- f) Used of feeding animals until they wanted nothing more
- g) They were allowed to eat until they were completely satisfied
- h) Ps. 107:9—" For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.**

- i) **Ps. 34:10**—“ The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.
- j) **Ps. 23:1**—“ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- k) **Ps. 23:5**—“ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
- l) **ILL-I love pumpkin pie, and when Jodi makes it I cannot eat just one bite, I want to eat more and more and it increases**
- m) “the one who hungers and thirsts after righteousness can feed on the myrrah of the gospel as well as the honey”
- n) **Prov. 27:7**—“**But to a famished man any bitter thing is sweet.**
- o) Even the Lord’s reproofs and disciplines bring satisfaction because they are signs of our Father’s love
- p) **Heb. 12:6**—“ **FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.**
- q) The spiritually hungry do not ask for Christ and economic success or for Christ and personal satisfaction or Christ and popularity or Christ and anything else
- r) They want only Christ
- s) And what God in His wisdom and love sovereignly provides through Christ
- t) The spiritually hungry cry
- u) **Ps. 119:20**—“ **My soul is crushed with longing After Your ordinances at all times.**
- v) And we should confess
- w) **Is. 26:9**—“ **At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; For when the earth experiences Your judgments The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.**