



**Blessed Are Those Who  
Hunger And Thirst  
After Righteousness**  
(Matthew 5:6)

Trilacoochee  
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# Sermon On The Mount

- “Jesus’ discourse upon a Galilean mountainside is in reality no mere sermon. It more approximates a manifesto of the kingdom of God... the very heartbeat of kingdom truth.” (Paul Earnhart)
- The “**Constitution**” or “**Founding Document**” of the Kingdom of Heaven.

## We have learned...

- ❑ That the Beatitudes describe the **character** of kingdom citizens...
- ❑ ...and that Kingdom citizens are to be **radically different** from people of this world.
- ❑ John Stott – “Christian Counterculture”

# The First Three Beatitudes

## □ “Poor in spirit” (vs. 3)

- ◆ Poor = destitute, abject poverty, have nothing.
- ◆ The realization that we are lost in sin; spiritually nothing; unable to save selves.

## □ “Mourn” (vs. 4)

- ◆ Spiritual mourning; true sorrow for our sins
- ◆ We must be heart-sick about our condition.



□ “Meek” (vs. 5)

- ◆ Not overly submissive, spiritless, tame.
- ◆ But... **Strength under control!**
- ◆ Strong, yet gentle, loving, caring.

# Beatitude # 4

□ **“Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled” (vs. 6)**

- ◆ Have you ever been **truly hungry**?
- ◆ Not just “miss a meal” hungry, but in an impoverished situation where you were constantly underfed, and might not know where your next meal was coming from?
- ◆ Japan after WW2 (Keoko Williams).

- ❑ This word “**hunger**” is the same as is used in Matt. 4:2 of Jesus: “And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he afterward **hungered.**”
- ❑ Since this kind of hunger is foreign to most of us – it may be hard for us to really relate!
  - ◆ Think of the pictures we see on TV of places in the world where hunger still exists.
- ❑ “All that **truly hungry people** can think of is **food.**” (Paul Earnhart, p. 11)
- ❑ Jesus wants his citizens to **hunger for “righteousness.”**

# What is this “righteousness” that we are to desire?

- This “righteousness” is **not perfect sinless obedience.**
- **1 John 1:5-10** – Walking in the Light vs. Walking in Darkness
  - ◆ V. 7 – “If we walk in the light...”
  - ◆ V. 8 – “If we say we have no sin...”
  - ◆ V. 9 – “If we confess our sins...”
  - ◆ V. 10 – “If we say that we have not sinned...”



# What is this “righteousness” that we are to desire?

## 1. The desire for a right relationship with God.

- ◆ Rom. 5:1-2 – “Being therefore **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

## 2. The Righteousness of a Transformed Live (Rom. 6)

- ◆ Shall we continue in sin...? (v. 1)
- ◆ We died to sin (v. 2)
- ◆ Baptized into Christ – raised to walk in newness of life (v. 4)
- ◆ Notice verses 6-13
  - ✓ Old man crucified (v. 6)
  - ✓ If we died, we shall live with Him (v. 8)
  - ✓ Dead to sin, alive to God (v. 11)
  - ✓ Let not sin reign (v. 12)
  - ✓ Present your members as “instruments of righteousness” (v. 13)

# Is This Righteousness Really Possible?

- The **righteousness demanded** in this sermon is **radical!**
  - ◆ Don't be angry (5:21-22)
  - ◆ Don't lust (5:27-28)
  - ◆ Don't divorce (5:31-32)
  - ◆ Turn the other cheek (5:38-39)
  - ◆ Love your enemy (5:43-44)

# Yes, It Is Possible!

- “Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be open unto you.” (7:7-8)
  - ◆ Not an all-inclusive promise for the Christian to receive anything he asks from God.
  - ◆ But in the context of this sermon, a promise and assurance that if we truly hunger and thirst after God’s righteousness – we will be filled!

# Do you want to be right with God?

- Do you hunger and thirst after righteousness?
  - ◆ The quest begins with being “poor in spirit.”
  - ◆ It continues with “mourning.”
  - ◆ One must be “meek” (strong, gentle, submissive to the will of God).
- **Now comes the blessed promise that if I desire to be right, God will satisfy my hunger!**

## The Prodigal (Luke 15:11-32)

- ❑ Left home and “wasted his substance with riotous living” (v. 13).
- ❑ During a famine – he got so hungry that he was tempted to eat pig’s food (v. 16).
- ❑ But in his hunger, “he came to himself” (17)
- ❑ **Will YOU “come to yourself?”**
  - ◆ Will you hunger for true righteousness?
  - ◆ “All that truly hungry people can think of is food.” (Earnhart)

# The Life in Christ begins with obedience to the Gospel

- ❑ “Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”  
(Rom. 5:1-2)
- ❑ The Jews on Pentecost are an excellent example of those who were hungering and thirsting for righteousness (Acts 2:36-38).