

Blessed ... those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

- *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Mt. 5:6*
- *Blessed = Any attribute or accomplishment that brings honor success, happiness and esteem!*
- *Jesus reveals the things that God will honor. Those who are praised by God will be blessed indeed!*
- *Then each one's **praise** will **come from God**. 1Cor. 4:4*
- ***praise is not from men but from God**. Rom. 2:29*
- *they loved the **praise of men** more than **the praise of God**. Jn. 12:43*

Righteousness

- A sense of justice & fairness in how we're treated
- By those in authority
- By our fellowman
- In business dealings
- *You shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in measures of length, of weight, or of quantity. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, you shall have: Lev 19:35-36*
- *A false balance is an abomination to Jehovah; But a just weight is his delight. Pr. 11:1*
- Not Just in business transactions but entire life.

God is always Righteous

- *For Jehovah is righteous; He loves righteousness: the upright shall behold His face. Ps 11:7*
- *Righteous are you, O Jehovah, and upright are your judgments. . . 142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is truth. Ps 119:137, 142*
- *8 O LORD God of hosts, who is like Thee, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You ... 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You. 16 In your name do they rejoice all the day; and in your righteousness are they exalted. Ps 89:8,14, 16*

The Righteous are God's Children

- 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 Jn 3:10
- Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Mt 7:12-13
- If you know that He is RIGHTEOUS, you know that everyone who practices RIGHTEOUSNESS is born of Him. 1 Jn 2:29
- Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices RIGHTEOUSNESS is RIGHTEOUS, just as He is RIGHTEOUS. 1 Jn 3:7

God calls Unfairness / Injustice: **SIN!**

- Every sin cheats someone of something very precious. **“It’s Not Fair:”**
- Cheated of possessions (stealing/coveting),
 - our integrity (bear false witness)
 - our life (murder),
 - our spouse (adultery),
 - our souls (false teaching),
 - our peace (anger).
- Those who recognize this and want to be fair are acting righteously. While those using lusts and selfishness to take what they have no right to have are unrighteous.

The Entire Law Proclaimed This

- Every Law God has given fulfills this purpose.
- *“The Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments”*
Deut. 6:24-25
- When give God what is rightfully His.
- When we allow man to keep what is His.
- This is righteousness and it is what the Law was designed to proclaim.

God Always Treats others with Fairness, Justice and Equity

- God is the objective standard of righteousness.
- *“For the lord is righteous; He loves righteousness”*
- *“righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;”* (Ps. 11:7; 89:14).
- Our outrage over unrighteousness reflects His:
- *“the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness/unrighteousness of men”* Rom. 1:18
- Created in His image and likeness, unless marred by selfish lust, we want to give fairness and equity as badly as we desire to receive it.

True Hunger

- *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Mt. 4:4).*
- *“I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. (Job 23:12).*
- Are we like this? Can we truly say that our interest in God’s standards of righteousness are as continual as our daily hunger?
“Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger.” (Lk. 6:21,25).

True Thirst

- *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” Ps 42:1*
- *“My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water” Ps. 63:1*
- Are we thirsting for righteousness as the deer pants for water?
- Do we recognize the dry and thirsty land of unrighteousness we live within and thirst for righteousness?

Interest in How we Treat God and Man

- *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 2 Tim 3:16-17*
- Every Scripture reveals how to be fair to others.
- Fair to God in worship and godliness.
- Fair to our fellow man in all our dealings.
- The more we hunger and thirst for this, the more we will hate sin and the stronger our **mourning** at our lack of **meekness** over taking from others what we had no right to have will become.
- This godly sorrow keep us **poor in spirit.**

They Shall Be Filled

- This is how Paul hungered and thirsted and was filled
- *Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ, 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, (even) that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith: Phil 3:7-9*

True Faith = Hunger & Thirst

- *For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,... Rom 4:3-5*

True Faith = Hunger & Thirst

- *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.” 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Rom 4:20-25*