# **The Beatitudes- Part 5 - Hungering and Thirsting**

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Sermon on the Mount / The Beatitudes / Matthew 5:3–16; Matthew 5:3–12; Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:2–4

# [Matthew 5:3-16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.3-16)

Today we are going to begin to unpack this fourth Beatitude: [Mt 5:6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.6) “6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

Righteousness in the Bible has at least three aspects: legal, moral and social.

Legal righteousness is justification, a right relationship with God.

Moral righteousness is that righteousness of character and conduct which pleases God.

It would be a mistake to suppose, however, that the biblical word ‘righteousness’ means only a right relationship with God on the one hand and a moral righteousness of character and conduct on the other it includes social righteousness as well. Thus Christians are committed to hunger for righteousness in the whole human community as something pleasing to a righteous God.

Remember our new Christian Ethic of the Kingdom of God?

1. Right action - What we do must be in obedience to Christ Commands [John 14:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.15) ““If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

2. Right Motivate - Why we do it - Must flow from the greatest commandment - “Love God - Love People” any other motivation is the wrong motivation [Matthew 22:37-40](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt22.37-40) “Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.””

3. Right Goal - [Matthew 5:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.16) “16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” [Isaiah 43:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is43.7) “7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”” The Goal is that God is Glorified

You could say it like this:

1.*The desire to be righteous—*to be forgiven and accepted by God; to be right with God.

2.*The desire to do what is right—*to do what God commands; imitating and reflecting God’s righteousness.

3.*The desire to see right done—*to help bring about God’s will in the world.

**This exceeding righteousness should be evident in our attitudes**. Six different times in [Matthew 5:21–48](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.21-48) Jesus says, “You have heard that it was said … but I tell you …” The Pharisees had created all kinds of ingenious ways of working around the intentions of God’s Word.

Emeril Lagasse, Famous chef with the well known tag line… Let’s kick it up a notch. Jesus essentially says “Let’s kick it up a notch”

 See [Matthew 5:20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.20) “20 For I say to you, that unless **your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” The Pharisees created laws to keep you from getting close to the actual law to ensure you could never break the law - Called fence laws.

248 Commands in the OT Law - 365 Prohibitions in the OT Law

1500 “Fence Laws” created by the Pharisees.

Jesus called them out in [Mark 7:1-23](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mk7.1-23) and [Matthew 15:1-20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt15.1-20) about their “Traditions of men (the Elders)

Jesus calls them whitewashed tombs Mt 23:27-28 “27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like **whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness**. 28 **Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”**

Hungering and Thirsting:

[Mt 5:6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.6) “6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst** for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

Hunger - Greek πεινάω peinaō [pay-now] hunger; to be hungry to the point of starvation

Thirst - Greek διψάω dipsaō [dip-sow] be thirsty. to experience extreme desire

Jesus uses these words in distinct ways in the beginning and the end of His earthly ministry.

[Matthew 4:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt4.2) “2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry (πεινάω peinaō [pay-now])”

This comes 40 days after His baptism by John the Baptist and He is led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit for a 40 day fast and to be tempted by the Devil.

[Matthew 4:2-4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt4.2-4) “2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, **“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ””**

Jesus quotes from the Old Testament from [Deuteronomy 8:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Dt8.3) “3 So He (God) humbled you, **allowed you to hunger**, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.**”

[John 19:28](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn19.28) “28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst! (διψάω dipsaō [dip-sow])””

Jesus ministry begins and ends so to speak on these two things, Hungering and Thirsting and revealing in between that He is the “Righteous One” ([Acts 7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ac7), [22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ac22), [1 John 2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Jn2))

The Righteous One became sin so we could become righteous!

**2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV**

21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

So what does it mean for us to Hunger and Thirst?

Last week on Sunday night we were in [John 4:13-14](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn4.13-14) “13 Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will **thirst** διψάω dipsaō [dip-sow] again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.””

A few verses earlier Jesus said: [Jn 4:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn4.10) “10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew **the gift of God**, a**nd who it is who says to you**, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.””

 In [Isaiah 55:1-2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is55.1-2) “1 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, **Come to the waters**; **And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat**. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.”

Job said in:

[Job 23:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Job23.12) (NKJV)

12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the **words of His mouth** More than my **necessary *food*.**

**It’s the Great exchange**

**Trading the desires of this world, that which we hunger for and thirst for in this life and exchange those desires for the desire of Christ Likeness:**

[John 4:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn4.10) “10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.””

**He is the Gift of God**, Jesus Christ Himself.

We Hunger and We thirst for more of Jesus and guess what happens?

We find Legal Righteousness, in our Justification before God because of Christ work on the Cross

We become Morally Righteous because God Changes us us we hunger and thirst to become more like Christ

We begin to act to change the world because our hearts begin to break for what breaks the heart of God: Brokenness in the world. Loving people into the same relationship with God that we get to have!

**Christ Witnesses to the Woman at the Well (John 4:1–26)**

