

Meet My Savior: Jesus (Slide 1)

The Beatitudes: Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

So far in our study of Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount/ the Beatitudes*, we have learned that to be “*poor in spirit*” is to recognize how we are “*spiritually bankrupt*” and that we cannot relieve that condition ourselves.

We’ve learned that those who recognize this condition “*mourn,*” because our sin is the reason for our *spiritual poverty*.

Mourning leads us to repentance.

Our lowly estate generates a “*humble, gentle/ meek spirit*” within us. It is a spirit that absolutely knows we are reliant on our Lord for healing.

We know that despite our best efforts and sometimes in spite of them, the way out of this condition is to submit our will to God’s will through Jesus.

With our new mindset, in our submissive journey in Christ we “*hunger and thirst*” to know more about Him. To learn from Him. To learn to imitate Him.

Matthew 5:6 (Slide 2)

***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.***

Simply put, ***righteousness*** means to be “*right with God.*”

Human nature dictates that we like to be “right.” Because to be right is such a force in the human psyche, it is often difficult for us to admit when we are wrong.

To better understand this condition, let’s consider the contrast between humanity’s concept of right and God’s concept of right:

Romans 10:1-3 (Slide 3)

1 Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

Here, Apostle Paul will contrast the works of the Old Law with walking by faith in Christ. Jesus fulfilled the Law and its works by coming to the earth as a man and dying on the cross. His completed mission was to unite all men,

Jew and Gentile alike under the New Law of Faith and Obedience. The Doctrine set forth by the Apostles has its very foundation from the facts of the Gospel.

Therefore, a Law established by God through His son is in effect and it has replaced the countless works of the Law under Moses.

Despite this truth, during Apostle Paul's ministry, the Jews continued to feel justification by adhering to the works of the Old Law. The concept of justification through works isn't dead today.

Many erroneously believe that they worship a God who is understanding of their life choices and lifestyles simply and they continue in their minds to worship Him on Sunday and pay tribute to His son by exhibiting what they believe His level of tolerance to be. They do so for what they deem to be for the sake of love and inclusion.

It is foolish to believe that God has embraced this concept of tolerance and inclusivity. In fact, Heaven is a place that is *"inclusive"* only to those who have met the standards as set forth by God.

Matthew 7:21 (Slide 4)

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

2 Timothy 4:1 (Slide 5)

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom

The charge that Apostle Paul is giving to the Preacher Timothy is a charge for any that would carry the message.

Some interpret this from a physical standpoint, simply that the living, meaning “alive,” and those dead, meaning “in the grave” will be judged by God and The Lord Jesus. That certainly will be the case but I am convinced he’s also speaking from a spiritual standpoint.

He emphatically states “*you better teach them about Jesus and how to be right with God because some will look to their own righteousness*” and will lose their very soul. This is illustrated as you read further in the chapter.

Being selected to enter heaven is not based on tolerance but on righteousness, that is, found to be “*right with God!*”

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10 (Slide 6)

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God (Slide 7) for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; (Slide 8) 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those (Slide 9) who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, (Slide 10) to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

And Timothy and all that preach, need to make sure folks understand the difference. Once people wholly realize what is at stake, they crave to know more about God.

Righteousness is an element of the Spirit Within:

Ephesians 5:9 (Slide 11)

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)

Apostle Paul states in what we read last week that the *righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel*, **Romans 1:16-17**.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Slide 12)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In other words, the one Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness can learn how to be "Right with God!"

The Psalmist David was not always right with God but through hardship, some of his own creation and some created by the jealousy of others, he learned to be right with God:

Psalm 24:3-5 (Slide 13)

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?

Or who may stand in His holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,

(Slide 14) **Nor sworn deceitfully.**

5 He shall receive blessing from the LORD,

And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Psalms 15 (Slide 15)

1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle?

Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

2 He who walks uprightly,

And works righteousness,

And speaks the truth in his heart;

(Slide 16) **3 He who does not backbite with his tongue,**

Nor does evil to his neighbor,

Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;

4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised,

But he honors those who fear the LORD;

He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

(Slide 17) **5 He who does not put out his money at usury,**

Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.

Sometimes people will go to great lengths to obtain what they “crave.” Often the narcissist will destroy any and all in their path to get what they want.

Some things we crave seem good for temporary satisfaction but often have lasting spiritual consequences. Many pursue “*unrighteousness*” with as much vigor as they pursue food to satisfy hunger.

The opposite is also true when it comes to avoiding the challenges/ adversity that stand in the way of what they desire.

I’m not sure where this quote comes from but it seems to fit for many:

“Men go to greater lengths to avoid what they fear than to obtain what they desire.”

This seems to fit the old saying “*no pain no gain*” speaking of diet and exercise. It takes a strong desire, self-control and commitment to get in shape physically and people avoid hard work like a plague. It also takes these same elements to become spiritually fit yet many don’t become spiritually fit because they fear what they may have to give up, the ridicule of friends and they may endure along the way.

Yet, we are to exercise spiritually in order to become “*right with God.*”

2 Timothy 2:22 (Slide 18)

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. In other words, grow up and face fear and prepare for the future of your soul.

In our craving to be right with God, we have come to understand that we must give up the old man of sin and replace him with the man who pursues the righteousness of God.

Philippians 3:7-9 (Slide 19)

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, (Slide 20) that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith

Invitation

What stands in your way in pursuing righteousness? Do you have fear in your heart? Fear diminishes when faith increases!

*Is there uncertainty or doubt? Do you know how much God loves us? **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear-1 John 4:18***

Are you hungry and thirsting for righteousness but are uncertain how to be filled?

John 6:30-35 (Slide 21)

30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

(Slide 22) 32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

(Slide 23) 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Friend, Jesus is your answer. Submit your will to God by being obedient to the Gospel and be buried with Him in baptism for the forgiveness of sin.

For those who have put on Christ but feel the need to raise the level of our commitment in pursuing righteousness.....prayers from those of like precious faith to God is your answer.

However we may serve you today please let us know.....

Reading

Revelation 7:13-17

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among

them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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