



## **Week 5 – Happy are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness**

**Series Passage:** Matthew 5:1-12

**Focus for the Week:** Matthew 5:6, Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-6

### **Discussion Guide:**

In our culture and country, we are continually bombarded with advertisements. A goal of any advertisement is to make us want something that we don't yet have. In essence, they are trying to get us to hunger and thirst after [insert product here].

Q: How many ads do you feel like you see in a day, and have you ever bought something just because of an ad you saw?

Q: What is the best ad you have ever seen?

The ultimate message of the ads we see is that we just need this one thing, and then we will be happy. This line of thinking has become so prevalent that it is also how many of us try to find happiness in our life. In the sermon, Raymond equated this to a buffet line.

Q: What are things from the “buffet of life” that we try to add to our plates to make us happy?

Q: By approaching life this way, what becomes the foundation for our happiness?

Jesus, in the beatitudes, speaks against this idea of us adding things to our lives to make us happy. Instead, he teaches us that *“Happy are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled.”* (Matthew 5:6)

Q: What does “hunger and thirst after” mean to you?

Q: With this approach to happiness, where does the foundation for that happiness lie?

While having this promise, it is important for us to understand what righteousness is. To give us a better understanding, we are going to look over the passage where the word “righteousness” first appears in the Bible.

**Read:** Genesis 12:1-4, Genesis 15:1-6

Q: Have you ever questioned what God is doing in your life, similar to how Abram did in Gen. 15:2?

Q: Have you ever felt like happiness is impossible to achieve?

Q: Reread Gen 15:6; what does this tell us about the nature of righteousness?

## **Finishing Well**

In Romans 4, Paul picks up on this idea when he writes, *“Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts in God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.”* (Romans 4:4-5) With this understanding, we can treat this week’s beatitude as,

“Happy are those who hunger and thirst after faith and belief in God, for they will be filled.”

Nothing we add to our life will fully satisfy us. We have to submit our lives to Christ. For it is by the grace of God that Jesus’ work on the cross atones for our sins and that through this sacrifice, righteousness can be credited to us if we believe.

We are happy and filled when we truly believe the words of Jesus when he said, “For God so loved the world that he gave his One and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Happiness is found in pursuing faith and belief in Christ and letting everything else be built on that foundation.

## **Close in Prayer**