



A HOLY HUNGER

Small Group Guide: **Matthew 5:6**

Key Takeaways:

Pastor Josh continued the series on the Beatitudes, focusing on Matthew 5:6: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." The sermon explored what it means to pursue God's righteousness and how this hunger is central to discipleship.

Key Takeaways

1. Righteousness is being in agreement with divine law and free from sin - something we cannot achieve on our own.
2. We receive righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, not through our own efforts (2 Corinthians 5:21).
3. True disciples have an intense hunger and thirst for righteousness - not just a casual interest.
4. The Beatitudes show both present reality and future hope - the Kingdom of God is here and yet to come.

5. Hungering for righteousness leads to sanctification - the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Before this sermon, how would you have defined "righteousness"? Has your understanding changed?
2. Read Romans 4:20-25. How does Abraham's story help us understand how righteousness works both in the Old Testament and for us today?
3. Pastor Josh said: "You do not need Christ to complete your life because without Christ, you have no life, period." How does this statement challenge the way our culture views Christianity? How does it challenge you personally?
4. What's the difference between self-righteousness (like the Pharisees) and the righteousness Jesus is talking about in Matthew 5:6?

Four signs that we hunger for righteousness:

1. Dissatisfaction with one's sin.
2. An intense longing to please God.
3. Desire to live a holy life (set apart).
4. Treat others with compassion.

Practical Application

1. Take 30 minutes alone with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of sin in your life. Write them down, confess them, and ask God to increase your hunger for righteousness in those specific areas.
2. Each day this week, pause three times (morning, midday, evening) and ask yourself: "Am I pursuing God's

righteousness or my own comfort/reputation/success right now?"

3. Memorize Matthew 5:6 and meditate on it daily. Journal about what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness in your current life circumstances.
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5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Poverty That Leads to Riches

Reading: Matthew 5:3-6; Romans 3:21-26

True spiritual hunger begins with recognizing our spiritual bankruptcy. When we acknowledge our poverty of spirit—that we are utterly dependent on God and incapable of saving ourselves—we position ourselves to receive His righteousness. This isn't about self-loathing but honest self-assessment before a holy God. The Pharisees thought they were spiritually wealthy, but Jesus called them poor. Conversely, those who recognize their need are promised the kingdom of heaven. Today, resist the temptation to measure your worth by worldly standards or religious performance. Instead, come before God empty-handed, acknowledging that without Christ, you have no spiritual life. This honest poverty opens the door to receiving the riches of God's grace and the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus alone.

Day 2: Mourning That Brings Comfort

Reading: Matthew 5:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Psalm 51:1-17

Godly sorrow over sin is not the same as worldly regret. When we truly mourn our sin, we're not just upset about consequences; we're grieved that we've offended a holy and loving God. This mourning flows from recognizing our poverty of spirit and drives us toward repentance. David's prayer in Psalm 51 demonstrates this heart—broken and contrite before God. The beautiful promise is that those who mourn in this way will be comforted. God doesn't leave us in our grief but meets us with His forgiveness and restoration. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin you've minimized or ignored. Don't just feel bad about it—bring it honestly before God, knowing He promises comfort and cleansing to those who genuinely mourn their rebellion against Him.

Day 3: Meekness—Strength Under Control

Reading: Matthew 5:5; Numbers 12:3; Philippians 2:5-11

Meekness is often misunderstood as weakness, but it's actually strength submitted to God's authority. Moses was called the meekest man on earth, yet he confronted Pharaoh and led a nation. Jesus, who possessed all power, humbled Himself to the point of death.

Meekness means surrendering your rights, your will, and your agenda to God's purposes. It's living with gentleness while possessing the strength to do otherwise. This quality naturally flows from mourning over sin—when you recognize your own failings, you become less judgmental and more gracious toward others. Today, identify one area where you're trying to maintain control rather than submitting to God's will. Practice meekness by choosing gentleness over aggression, humility over pride, and God's way over your own preferences. Remember, the meek will inherit the earth.

Day 4: The Righteousness You Cannot Earn

Reading: Romans 4:1-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Genesis 15:6

You cannot make yourself righteous through good behavior, religious activity, or moral improvement. Righteousness—being in right standing with God—comes only through faith in Jesus Christ. Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. The same principle applies to us. God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to become sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. This is imputation—God credits Christ's perfect righteousness to your account when you place your faith in Him. You don't need Christ to complete your life; without Christ, you have no life. Today, stop trying to earn God's approval through your performance. Rest in the finished work of Jesus. Thank God that His righteousness has been freely given to you through faith, not achieved through effort.

Day 5: Living Out Your Hunger

Reading: Matthew 5:6-12; 1 Peter 1:13-16; Romans 7:14-25

Hungering and thirsting for righteousness means you're never satisfied with spiritual mediocrity. You crave holiness the way your body craves food and water when deprived. This hunger manifests in four ways: dissatisfaction with your sin, an intense longing to please God, a desire to live a holy life set apart for Him, and treating others with compassion. Paul expressed this tension—wanting to do right but struggling with indwelling sin. This is sanctification, the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus. You've been justified fully through faith, but now you're being transformed daily by the Spirit. Today, assess your spiritual appetite. Are you content with occasional spiritual snacks, or do you hunger deeply for God's righteousness? Pursue holiness not to earn salvation but because you've been saved and want to please your Father.