

Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness

God's blessing rests on those who recognize their desperate need for Him. Just as our bodies cannot live without food and water, our souls cannot live without His righteousness. Jesus promises that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled—not with the empty substitutes the world offers, but with the fullness of forgiveness, transformation, and eternal life that only He can provide. Jesus says: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Psalm 107:9 promises: "For he has satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things."

I. The Craving of the Soul (Matthew 5:6a)

A. Matthew 5:6a: *Blessed are those who **hunger** and **thirst** for righteousness...*

1. Hunger and thirst are the most basic human needs—relentless and unavoidable.
 2. "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so I **long** for you, God. I thirst for God, the living God" (Psalm 42:1-2).
- B. People try to satisfy their souls with success, pleasure, or possessions—but it's like drinking salt water.
1. "Why do you spend silver on what is not food, and your wages on what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is **good**" (Isaiah 55:2).
 2. Only righteousness satisfies.

II. The Object of Our Hunger (Matthew 5:6b)

A. Matthew 5:6a: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for **righteousness**...*

- B. Righteousness is both **a status received** (right with God) and **a life lived** (reflecting His character).
1. "For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds. The **upright** will see his face" (Psalm 11:7).
 2. Pharisees equated righteousness with external precision; Jesus called it empty (Matthew 23:25).
 - a) "Not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through **faith** in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith" (Philippians 3:9).
 3. True blessing is not about outward correctness, but about a heart remade by grace.

III. The Promise of Satisfaction (Matthew 5:6c)

A. Matthew 5:6b: *for they will be **filled**.*

B. "For he has **satisfied** the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things" (Psalm 107:9).

1. **Present:** "I am the bread of life...no one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again" (John 6:35).
2. **Future:** "They will no longer hunger; they will no longer thirst...for the Lamb...will shepherd them...to **springs** of the waters of life" (Revelation 7:16-17).

C. The marriage supper of the Lamb will be the final fulfillment—every longing met, every thirst quenched.

IV. The Test of Our Appetite

- A. What are you hungry for—success, comfort, recognition, or righteousness?
- B. Feed your soul daily on God's Word, prayer, and fellowship.
- C. Don't settle for a nibble of righteousness on Sunday—make it your steady diet.

V. As We Close

A. Jesus' promise is simple and sure:

1. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6).
2. "For he has satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things" (Psalm 107:9).

B. Come to the table of grace—and be filled.