



July 6, 2025

PART FOUR

The Hunger that Satisfies

Matthew 5:6; Galatians 5:22

Synopsis: To “*hunger and thirst for righteousness*” is to long deeply for things to be made right—personally, relationally, socially, and before God. It speaks of a craving that is both raw and honest. This beatitude affirms those who *feel* the lack, who *ache* for justice, healing, and reconciliation - people who live with a deep awareness of what’s missing in the world and in themselves. Jesus promises not just recognition of that hunger, but its satisfaction. This satisfaction comes as the person enters into life in the kingdom with Jesus, where they begin to live in the reality of God’s presence, power, and peace.

The Beatitudes Twist

Dallas Willard (*The Divine Conspiracy*, 1998) argues that Jesus’ Beatitudes were not meant to define *ideal* spiritual conditions but rather to describe the surprising kinds of people who are actually “blessed” or favored in God’s kingdom. Willard argues that the Beatitudes are Jesus’ radical announcement of the availability of the kingdom of God to *everyone* - especially those who seem furthest from religious success. Jesus is showing how the divine life can be available to people in every condition of human brokenness. Each beatitude, then, is not a spiritual goal but an invitation to hope. It demonstrates how God’s grace reaches beyond the borders of social, religious, and moral respectability and shatters spiritual elitism (Pharisees et al) and invites all to enter into life with God now. As such, the kingdom of God is not for the spiritually elite, but for the spiritually desperate.

An Invitation to the Spiritually Desperate

Who are the hungry and thirsty? To hunger and thirst is to be in a state of desperate need.

Physical language used to describe a spiritual condition. Spiritual desperation is not a *barrier* - it’s a *bridge*

Righteousness is found in Relationship not Rule Keeping

In the OT: Righteousness = being in right relationship with God, others, and community

Jesus’ words in His sermon: righteousness is internal, relational, and rooted in the power of the Spirit

Righteousness is a person: Jesus Christ: *1 Corinthians 1:30*

Satisfaction is a Promise

Hungering/Thirsting for righteousness is not something to be solved by human effort, but a yearning that will be answered by God’s action. It’s not a project we complete - It’s a promise we receive

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.” *Jn 6:35*

Patience (Our connection to the Fruit of the Spirit): Enduring Hunger with Hope

Living in and with the tension between *Promise* and *Fulfillment*

Patience is not just about waiting - it’s about *how* we wait

It is not passive resignation - it is *active trust* in God’s timing, God’s character, and God’s promise