

July 5th, 2026

Paradox – A seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that, when investigated or explained, may prove to be well-founded or true.

- It is possible to be allergic to cucumbers but love pickles.

Sermon on the Mount:

- **Matthew 4:23** – Jesus has been going through Galilee “*proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.*”
- **Matthew 5-7** establishes a way to live that reflects God’s kingdom; the kingdom Jesus has been preaching.

Beatitudes – “*Blessed.*” Each statement begins with “*Blessed are...*” Literally “*God Blesses.*”

- Rewards for living a kingdom life.

Blessed are: The Poor in Spirit

Those who Mourn

The Meek.

“*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*” – **Matt. 5:6.**

Vs.

“God blesses those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Hunger & Thirst – Avidly Desire something; suffer from a lack of; passionate longing.

- **Genesis 25:29-34.**
 - o Jacob & Esau.
 - o Exhausted – Physically worn out from great hunger, thirst, or exertion.
 - o Birthright.

For Righteousness.

- Right conduct in the eyes of God.
- Do we hunger and thirst for right conduct in the eyes of God to the point where we would give up everything like Esau did? Will you give up everything to do what God says is right???
- “*Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*” – **Matt. 6:1.**
- “*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*” – **Matt. 6:33.**

- **1 John 1:5-10.**

- o Walking is a continual action.
- o Does the blood of Jesus “*cleanse us from our sins*” because we are worthy if we walk in the light???

Write down a sin that is present in your life: _____.

To claim that we are a Kingdom follower, our lives must bear it out...without exception.

They will be Satisfied.

- A complete satisfaction of need. The needing comes to an end.
- God blesses those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, for their hungering and thirsting will come to an end.

- **Psalm 16.**
- When will this be reality?

SO WHAT?!?

Matthew 6:19-24.

- You cannot serve God and _____.

Amos 8:1-10.

- The people breaking God's law looked past observing God's law to when they could go back to sinning.
- There are parallels today. Are there any in your life?

"I do not know of a better test that anyone can apply to himself in this whole matter of the Christian profession than a verse like this. If this verse is to you one of the most blessed statements of the whole Scripture, you can be sure you are a Christian. If it is not, then you had better examine the foundations again." – Martin Lloyd-Jones.

What are you hungering and thirsting for?
Where are you walking in sin in your life?

If you haven't surrendered your life to God yet, who or what are you hungering and thirsting for? Does it satisfy you? Because God will.

For Small Group Discussion:

Opening Question: What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten/drunk?

Main Point: We have two options for following God: We hunger and thirst for His righteousness, or we do not walk with Him. There really is no middle ground.

Head Questions:

- What exactly is "right conduct in the eyes of God?"
- What is the difference between righteousness and perfection?
- What is the difference between righteousness and walking in sin?
- Find a story in the Bible when people chased after Jesus for physical food. How did He interact with them? What did He point them towards?

Heart Questions:

- What does it look like, in your life, to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- When do you fill your hunger and thirst for righteousness with other, worldly things? What is the result?
- When have you let something get in the way of hungering and thirsting for righteousness? How did you feel after? What did you do after?

Hands Questions:

- What is a sin in your life you are either walking in or letting have a foothold in your life? How can you cut this sin out of your life *this week*?
- How do live this next month hungering and thirsting for righteousness, even if the satisfying does not come until heaven?
- What "right conduct in the eyes of God" do you need to strengthen in your life?

Additional Scripture: **Matt. 3:13-17; Matt. 6:1-18; John 4:1-38; John 6:22-40; Psalm 42:1-5; Psalm 63:1-11; Micah 6:6-8; 1 John 2-3; Galatians 2:15-21.**