



Connect Discussion Guide

07.04.21 Message | Andrew Kovar | Matthew 5:6

Key Scriptures:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

- Matthew 5:6

"And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers."

- Genesis 2:8-10

"Moses said, 'This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

- Exodus 16:32

"And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"

- 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

"And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are the true words of God.'"

- Revelation 19:9

Message Highlights:

- Righteousness, simply put, means living rightly, doing the right thing, making things right.
- Doubt and concern that God will provide drives us to misplace our hunger and thirst.
- Hunger and thirst have always served as constant reminders of our need for God.
- In this life, we can be satisfied with the appetizer that is living rightly as God has called us to live.

Conversation Starter:

Hunger and thirst are two practical needs each of us experience on a daily basis; when you've gone too long without these practical needs, how are you affected? Do you experience similar ramifications when you've gone too long without cultivating your relationship with God? Discuss with your group.

Discuss the Message:

1. Read Matthew 5:6 aloud; how would the beatitude's meaning change if "hunger and thirst" were omitted and it simply read, "Blessed are those who are righteous." Why does it matter that Jesus does in fact say, "Blessed are those who *hunger* and *thirst* for righteousness"?
2. Genesis 2:8-10 showcases God's provision in giving Adam and Eve everything they needed to flourish. The rest of the story in the Garden of Eden reveals that Adam and Eve's hunger and thirst was misplaced; why is this? When your hunger and thirst is for something other than God, what deeper issue does that reveal about your relationship with him?
3. What did Israel do when they were hungry and thirsty in the desert (Exodus 16:32)? How did God respond? Discuss the symbolism of hunger and thirst in light of our relationship with God.
4. As God's children, we live in the confidence that our hunger and thirst will be fulfilled as King Jesus reigns for eternity. Until things are made right again, how will our cravings be satisfied on this side of heaven, according to this week's beatitude?
5. Pursuing righteousness may seem like a lofty goal, yet we are told that citizens of God's Kingdom are characterized by their pursuit of righteousness; how has God equipped us to do just that? When you've faced discouragement in your pursuit of righteousness, how has God comforted you?
6. Do you relate to Andrew's analogy of "spoiling your dinner"? What is it about the junk drawer that entices us over God's truly satisfying provisions? What disciplines can we put into practice now that will help us to crave Jesus' Kingdom rather than things from the junk drawer?

Pray:

Righteous Father, we praise you for doing all things well! We hear your invitation to hunger and thirst for righteousness and your promise that we will be fully satisfied. Please forgive us for the times we fill ourselves with the junk of this world and ruin our appetite for you and your ways.

Holy Spirit, renew our desire to be in a right relationship with you and to do the right thing. We not only hope for things to be made right in the world, but want to join you as active participants in making all things new.

King Jesus, we look forward to eternity with you, when every hunger of our hearts is fully satisfied and every thirst in our souls is fully quenched. Help us to live each day as those who hunger and thirst for your righteousness, that we might experience a taste of what is to be when your Kingdom arrives in full. Amen.