

# INSIDE OUT

## A Deeper Look at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST  
FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024**

**KEY SCRIPTURE** | Matthew 5:6

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

We continue our series, *Inside Out: A Deeper Look at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*, studying what is famously called the "Beatitudes". The Beatitudes are principles or identity markers for those who live in God's kingdom. In this week's study, Jesus emphasizes yearning for God's righteousness and justice. So often, we chase many different things looking for satisfaction. We're searching for understanding of this life and we try everything, but it never delivers. Yet, "those who hunger and thirst for righteousness" will be at home in the kingdom of God. Those who long to be in right standing with God and to see God's justice on earth as in heaven will be satisfied. So, why don't we pursue righteousness? Perhaps we are too busy pursuing the wrong thing, or we've never truly experienced the goodness of God. God invites us to be made right with Him. We are made right with God by entering a relationship with God.

### QUESTIONS

Icebreaker: When you're extremely hungry, what food do you crave?

1. Read Matthew 5:1–6 together as a group. What ideas does "hunger and thirst" stir up for you? How is hungering and thirsting for something different than believing something is important?
2. Read the Old Testament Passages in the Notes section. Discuss some principles about spiritual hunger and thirst that you've learned from these passages.
3. From what you learned from the message, how would you define righteousness in your own words?—see Digging Deeper
4. What are some things that you look to for satisfaction? Why do you pursue them?
5. Have you been made right with God? (If the answer is no, see Notes). Or, has your hunger for God's righteousness faded over time?
6. How is God inviting you to respond to the message this week?

### NOTES

Question 3: Old Testament Passages that relate to Matthew 5:6

#### **Psalm 42:1-2**

- 1 As the deer longs for streams of water,  
so I long for you, O God.
- 2 I thirst for God, the living God.  
When can I go and stand before him?



## Isaiah 55:1-2

"Is anyone thirsty?  
Come and drink—  
even if you have no money!  
Come, take your choice of wine or milk—  
it's all free!  
2 Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength?  
Why pay for food that does you no good?  
Listen to me, and you will eat what is good.  
You will enjoy the finest food.

## Psalms 63:1-5

O God, you are my God;  
I earnestly search for you.  
My soul thirsts for you;  
my whole body longs for you  
in this parched and weary land  
where there is no water.  
2 I have seen you in your sanctuary  
and gazed upon your power and glory.  
3 Your unfailing love is better than life itself;  
how I praise you!  
4 I will praise you as long as I live,  
lifting up my hands to you in prayer.  
5 You satisfy me more than the richest feast.  
I will praise you with songs of joy.

**Proverbs 21:21**—Whoever pursues righteousness and unfailing love will find life, righteousness, and honor.

**Psalms 34:8**—Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

### Question 7: How can you be made right with God? Read these passages below:

**Romans 1:17**—This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

- This is all accomplished when we confess our sins and commit our lives to Christ (that's what "faith" means).
- Everybody here will get a chance to do that today.
  - This isn't an invitation to join Cedar Valley Church
  - It's an invitation to be made right with God, to feel right

**Romans 3:25**—For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood.

**Romans 5:9-11**—And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

## DIGGING DEEPER

### Question 4:

What does "righteousness" mean? The Greek word *dikaiosyne* means "rightness" or "acceptable to God" or "justice". Here in Matthew, it means "simultaneously personal righteousness and justice in the broadest sense. These people hunger and thirst, not only that they may be righteous (i.e. that they may wholly do God's will from the heart), but that justice may be done everywhere. All unrighteousness grieves them and makes them homesick for the new heaven and earth – the home of righteousness (1 Peter 3:13).

—D. A. Carson, *The Expositors Bible Commentary: Matthew*. Page 134