

Tuesday Devotional

(On Wednesday)

January 27th, 2021

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

This has been one of the toughest years for different businesses and companies. Yesterday the news came out that the local Charlotte started company Belk is filing for Bankruptcy. What this means is that Belk has a large amount of debt somewhere and they are asking for relief from this debt. As we have been looking at the Beatitudes over the past couple of weeks the first several have been focused on this idea of our own spiritual bankruptcy. We are helplessly in debt to God and we need complete relief from this debt. This is not a debt we can repay. The question this Beatitude is asking is do we desire for this debt to be cleared?

Looking back at this verse it begins as all the other Beatitudes do. “Blessed” or truly happy are those who do this. Where is true happiness? It is not in our experiences or our situations as Christians. Rather, true happiness lays in the hands of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. By hunger and thirst Jesus is saying we are to desire after righteousness. Just as when we are hungry or thirsty for food or drink, we are to have the same desire for righteousness. So now we must ask, what is righteousness?

Righteousness is to be free from sin and to be holy as God is holy. Therefore, we could say righteousness is to be have a right relationship with God because there is no sin. Martyn Lloyd Jones is helpful when he writes, *“The desire for righteousness, the act of hungering and thirsting for it, means ultimately the desire to be free from sin in all its forms and in its every manifestation.”* To put this quote positively means we should be hungering and thirsting for holiness. Holiness is to be set apart from the world and to be more like Christ. This is only possible by the grace of God by the working of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we must rest all the more in God almighty.

As we read this Beatitude we need to be asking, are we hungry and thirsty for righteousness? In a culture that is constantly looking for peace, this is the ultimate answer. To desire for righteousness is where true satisfaction and true peace comes from. We can talk all day about world peace, but unless we desire for righteousness, world peace is hopeless. Desiring for righteousness and to be more Christ like should be our aim and hope. Are you hungry and thirsty?

For Further Study: Ephesians 4:17-32