

Week 5: Hungry & Thirsty

Jesus is not describing eight different persons but is describing eight different qualities of the same person.

– Darrell Johnson

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Theme:

INTRODUCTION:

Icebreaker: If you could only have one food and one drink for the rest of your life, what would you choose?

Opening Prayer: Have a member of the group offer a prayer to start the meeting.

Example Prayer: *Heavenly Father, teach us what it means to hunger and thirst for what is right, so that we can find pure satisfaction in you and not our senseless toils. In Jesus name, Amen.*

LESSON BEGINS:

“In his fourth Beatitude, Jesus is announcing good news. He comes into our lives, enters into all our hungers and thirsts, and restores in us the hunger and thirst for which we were made. In the process, he heals all of the other natural cravings that the power of sin has twisted.” – Darrell Johnson

- What is something, other than food, that you hunger for?
- How has sin distorted that hunger?
- What does it look like to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- How should that internal desire motivate us toward action?

WEEK 5 BEATITUDE MEDITATION:

Read Matthew 5:3-11. Half read the “Blessed” section, the other half read the “For the/they” section.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

- What is an injustice in the world you long to see made right?
- How do we know that something is just not right?
- Why do we get upset with suffering around us?
- Is there a standard of justice that is built within us? If so, where does it come from?

WEEK 5 SERMON DISCUSSION:

Week 5 Sermon Discussion Questions:

This week the pastor discussed Matthew 5:7, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

- What did the pastor say it meant to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- What did the pastor say it meant that they will be filled?
- How did the message change or enhance your understanding of this beatitude?
- Did the pastor say anything that was particularly meaningful or encouraging?
- How were you encouraged to apply this beatitude in your daily life or spiritual journey?
- Were there any questions or concerns that you had from the message?

QUOTE: Derwin Gray

“The Good Life is a life that answers God’s call to make a positive difference in the world, to be a giver not a taker. You don’t have to be famous to make a difference - you just need to be faithful.

- How did Jesus enter into our broken world and display God’s righteousness?
- How does longing for God’s love move us to seek righteousness and justice?
- How can you join God in displaying his righteousness in this broken world?

THE GOOD LIFE VIDEO WEEK 5 (with Derwin Gray)

In this session Derwin Gray will show us that the heartache we all experience when we see hurt and injustice in the world is actually a longing for the good life that God has promised to us in Christ.

As you watch this week’s video, ask yourself, “How has this week’s teaching help you understand your longing for justice and righteousness in our world?”

Watch The Good Life video 3:

Videos can be accessed at www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos. This is a hidden page, please do not share it with others.

Discuss:

- What stood out to you about the story of Manny Ohonme?
- Do you ever have trouble reconciling the bad of this world with the existence of God? How do you resolve the tension?
- God sent Jesus to join us in our brokenness and meet our deepest needs. Why should this compel us to meet others’ needs?
- How has this week’s video changed your understanding on what it means to hunger and thirst for what is right?

QUOTE: Derwin Gray

“Think about this - you are the answer to someone’s prayer. Someone is praying right now, and God wants to use you to answer their prayer. The justice in the world longs to be found in your... When we lay down our lives in service to others, we find the true good life.”

- What are some of the prayers that people around you are making?
- How can you join with God to be an answer to someone’s prayers?
- What are ministries that you know or support that are bringing righteousness to our world?
- How can you join with these ministries to fill the world with God’s righteousness?

GALATIANS 6:9-10

Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

- How is trying to do good on your own strength exhausting?
- How can we support and encourage each other to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- How does working with others give us strength to endure? How does that build meaning through Christian Community.

JOHN 7:37-39

Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him." He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- How does Jesus and the Holy Spirit satisfy those who are hungry and thirsting for righteousness?

"Every day Jesus offers himself as the source and embodiment of all right relatedness." – Darrell Johnson.

FINAL THOUGHT: Derwin Gray

God isn't looking for your ability; He longs for your availability to share His supernatural ability. God takes unrighteous people and makes the righteous through the blood of Christ, so they can express His righteousness to the earth. The good life looks like a life of repentance, forgiveness, mercy, and serving the hurting.

WEEK 5 WRAP-UP

Read Matthew 5:3-11 Out loud together as a group.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

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Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Closing Prayer: How can the group pray for you and others to have a "blessed" (*makarios*) week?

Have a group member close in prayer or provide an opportunity for all members to pray for each other.

For additional insight on being poor in spirit, read the following.

- Chapter 5, 'Happy are the Hungry and Thirsty' in *The Good Life*, by Derwin Gray
- Chapter 5 'Alive in a God-Sized Craving' in *The Beatitudes* by Darrell Johnson