

The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes

(4) “Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

 1 Corinthians 3:1–2 (NIV) “Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.”

 Hebrews 5:13 (NIV) “Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.”

 Matthew 5:6 (NIV) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Jesus wants to be our righteousness.

 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV) “...Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”

 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

 Hebrews 1:1–2 (NIV) “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.”

Jesus wants to be our priority.

 Matthew 6:33 (NIV) “...seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

 Philippians 3:8a (NLT) “Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

 Luke 14:26 (NIV) “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.”

 Luke 14:26 (NLT) “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.”

Jesus wants to be our nourishment.

 Matthew 5:6 (NIV) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

 Isaiah 55:1–2 (NLT) “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.”

 Ephesians 4:11–14 (NIV) “It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.”

 Matthew 7:15–17 (NLT) “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit.”

 Philippians 2:3–5 (NIV) “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus”

Digging Deeper— What is the hungriest or thirstiest that you have ever been? What does it mean to hunger or thirst for God? If

 Jesus satisfies our thirst (John 4:14), why do we still get spiritually thirsty at times? What are you filling your life with other than Jesus? What tasted sweet going down, but you learned to regret? What part of the sermon most spoke to you? What does a baby Christian look like? What does an adolescent Christian look like? What does a mature Christian look like? Can a Christian resemble Benjamin Button?