

The Beatitudes

Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Matthew 5:6

Introduction

The blessings recorded in Matthew Chapter 5 are the principles and values Jesus based all His teachings upon. We could call the beatitudes Jesus's vision and mission statement. Jesus uses these blessings to teach us some profound truth about life. His message focuses on our attitude towards God.

1. Matthew five is one of the most awesome guarantees of _____ found anywhere in the Bible.

I. Hunger and Thirst

2. The hunger and thirst Jesus describes is the _____, gnawing, killer hunger that doesn't give up.
3. We must realize the intense nature that hunger and thirst produces before we can apply it to a _____ desire for the life-giving Spirit of God.
4. Augustine wrote, "The punishment for sin is _____."
5. No arbitrary add-on penalties are needed to enhance the total _____ that sin by its very nature produces.
6. Our world is the handwork of _____.
7. Because of sin, the _____ is at war with the Almighty.
8. The spiritual and godly persons in this world _____ this evil and its oppression.
9. The nature of sin is _____.
10. Sin _____ us from God and from goodness.

11. Within each person's heart is a deep need and spiritual longing for God's _____ and love.
12. Because of the sin nature we inherited from Adam and Eve, we are born with a _____ nature against God.
13. Our world today is starving to death from _____ malnutrition.
14. People try everything they can think of to _____ a longing that only God himself can fill.
15. It is not until our spirit becomes united with the Spirit of the Creator that our spiritual _____ can be filled, making us whole and complete.
16. Instead of trying to fill the void in our life with sinful desires, we instead hunger and thirst for _____.

II. Righteousness

17. Around the world, more than enough food is produced to feed the _____ population—but as many as 811 million people still go hungry.
18. In the desert communities Jesus spoke to, hunger meant _____, and thirst meant a desperate need for water to survive.
19. Jesus describes the desperate longing of the _____ for God and His righteousness as a matter of spiritual life and death.
20. Jesus blesses those who pursue righteousness as a profoundly urgent _____ in their lives.
21. Righteousness includes qualities of _____ and justice and truth and mercy and love. Those are the traits of righteousness.

22. Jesus blesses those who hunger and thirst and identify themselves with the nature of God; with His _____ and truth and mercy and love.
23. There is a vast _____ between God's righteousness and our own nature and lifestyle.
24. Only God can _____ the spiritual emptiness inside us!

III. Be Filled

25. The beatitude does not say, 'Blessed *are* the _____' it says, 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.'
26. The blessing is a _____ to commit to a journey that continually reaches out for the righteousness of God.
27. Our hunger and thirsting will be _____, we will be content, we will be filled and transformed by his Holy Spirit.
28. The Holy Spirit fills us with the presence and _____ of God.
29. When we partake of the Bread of Life, we will never starve because we have found the source of spiritual _____!
30. Those filled with the Holy Spirit rely upon the righteousness of _____.
31. Christ wants us to become a spiritual _____ to a starving world.
32. When you _____ the fruit, it's not that hard to figure out who's hungering and thirsting after righteousness and who's hungering and thirsting for something else.

Conclusion

33. In one sense, we are filled when we accept the free gift of _____, but too often, that is where hungering and thirsting stops.
34. Some believers continue to struggle with areas of sin because they try to fill a _____ in their life with something other than Jesus Christ.
35. Hungering and thirsting is _____ and reoccurring.

A spiritually healthy person will always be hungry and thirsty for more of God in their life. We need to focus on seeking God's righteousness to receive this fourth blessing. God will honour our hunger and thirst for him by filling us with his Holy Spirit. When faced with temptation, Jesus told Satan, **"It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"**

ANSWERS

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|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Godliness | 23. Gulf |
| 2. Fierce | 24. Fill |
| 3. Spiritual | 25. Righteous |
| 4. Sin | 26. Challenge |
| 5. Disaster | 27. Satisfied |
| 6. God | 28. Life |
| 7. World | 29. Nutrition |
| 8. Resist | 30. Christ |
| 9. Destructive | 31. Refreshing |
| 10. Separates | 32. Examine |
| 11. Goodness | 33. Salvation |
| 12. Rebellious | 34. Void |
| 13. Spiritual | 35. Continuing |
| 14. Satisfy | |
| 15. Emptiness | |
| 16. Righteousness | |
| 17. Global | |
| 18. Starvation | |
| 19. Soul | |
| 20. Priority | |
| 21. Virtue | |
| 22. Justice | |