

Matthew 5:6 NLT

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

Loiuse Bevan tells the following fable: An unfortunate man found himself lost in the desert, nearly starving and desperately thirsty for water. Eventually, he came across a small, abandoned tent. There was a water pump in front of the tent, but tragically, no water. Overwhelmed by despair, the lost man couldn't help but notice a kettle beside the water pump. The lid of the kettle was fashioned from a piece of wood and there was a note affixed to its side. It was an instruction.

“First, pour the water from the kettle into the pump—only then can you pump the water out to drink. Take your fill. Be sure to refill the kettle with water before leaving here.” Hesitating briefly, he finally decided to follow the instructions written on the mysterious note. It was not his kettle, or his pump, after all, and the note was explicit. Mercifully, after feeding the water pump, the water flowed freely and he was able to drink the cool liquid to his heart's content, satisfying his desperate thirst.

In the broadest sense, righteousness means “right-ness.” Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness seek the satisfaction of correct thinking, correct action, and correct feeling. They seek contentment in virtue, integrity, and purity of life. More narrowly, God promises satisfaction to seekers because when heaven comes to earth, it will be a place of justice and fulfilled hope. Righteousness requires us to look outside of ourselves and our own needs for answers and to submit to serving others in order to help ourselves.

Seeking right-ness means we understand our true state, which is something short of righteous. But in Christ, we can stand before God without fear. Because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, we seek to agree fully with everything God says about us. False humility and overbearing pride can cripple the Church.

As we pray for hunger and thirst for righteousness, we should consider how

our homes, businesses, and other spaces we frequent would be different if they were characterized by right-ness. What if God made us righteous and gave us the influence to spread His righteousness to other people and places? How would our world be different? And what if we had the humility to seek after God to pursue the right-ness he has called us to?

Prayer:

Father God, help us to focus on what is true, honorable, and worthy of respect. Let us remain righteous people, doing things that are acceptable in

In Jesus' name, Amen

Additional Scriptures

Proverbs 21:3

Micah 6:8

Acts 10:34–35

2 Timothy 2:22



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