

## 7 – Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

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

“Righteousness,” according to Merriam Webster Dictionary, means morally good, right or fair; following religious or moral laws or acting in accord with divine or moral law.

For the Christian, there are two sides to righteousness: 1) that which we were made to be in Christ – according to 2 Corinthians 5:21, free from the guilt of sin – and 2) the way we are to live after accepting Christ as Lord.

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:20 "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

The two major aspects of righteousness are living for God and living for the Kingdom to come; yet, the natural way humans live is for self and now. People have extreme difficulty conducting their affairs today with the view of a long physical life, not to mention eternity.

**Righteous living consists of living for God and the Kingdom to come.** All of Jesus' actions and words were governed by these two views. Everything that Jesus said and anything he did pertained to glorifying God and the coming Kingdom. The primary theme of the Sermon on the Mount is the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:20 "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 6:10 "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:13 "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.)"

Matthew 6:33 "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter."

Luke 14:1 – Jesus did not shy away from the enemy. Dinner on the Sabbath day seems to have been a special meal, and it was common to invite guests.

Edema - an abnormal infiltration and excess accumulation of serous fluid in connective tissue or in a serous cavity —called also *dropsy*.

Luke 14:3 – According to the rabbinic regulations, it certainly was not lawful; healing could take place on the Sabbath only when there was danger to life. Nothing in the Scriptures, however, forbids healing on the Sabbath.

The clear implication of all this is that deeds of mercy are in order on the Sabbath. They missed the point of the Sabbath, as is common today; it was instituted for people's good and not the bondage of legalism.

Religious tradition or legalism cause blindness and lead a person, as in this case, to deny justice, charity, and even basic humanitarianism.

Luke 14:6 – Turning the other cheek and passivity or submissiveness are not the same if Jesus' actions are righteous, and indeed they are always right.

Luke 14:7 – Much of the reproof Jesus speaks is specific to the people involved. Seldom did he speak about others to the public. He did so when someone could wrongly influence others. Some preachers and teachers make grand swooping condemnations of groups of people. His boldness is off the charts.

Luke 14:8-11 – Speaks to self-concern, self-interest, concern how people perceive us

The most important person at this dinner was the Messiah. How was he treated, and how did he respond?

Better that people say to you to come up rather than go down, but Jesus is not giving a good piece of worldly advice, he is teaching people to be genuinely humble. Many of us sin with anger, cursing, false accusations, slander because we feel disrespected. Why do we place such an importance on others honoring us?

When we follow Jesus' advice, we run no risk other than being exalted. Luke 18:14; Matthew 23:12; 18:4; 1 Peter 5:6

Romans 12:3 – For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Philippians 2:3 – Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Luke 14:12-14 – Do not give to get. Jesus is not forbidding normal social life; rather, he is emphasizing that there is no generosity in giving to people who will make recompense. To give as Jesus suggests is an act of pure generosity. Why do we give to whom we give? Matthew 6:1-ff - Do not perform your alms to receive praise of men.

Luke 14:14 – Act with regard to the kingdom and not now.

Luke 14:15 – Seems to be a question from someone sure that he will be in the kingdom based upon Jesus' response

Luke 14:18-20 – The excuses were not immoral involvement, rather things of the world taking priority over following the Lord.

Luke 14:24 – Jesus presses the urgency of the situation. The Lordship of Christ must come first now. Stop making excuses.

Luke 14:25 – 35 – **DISCIPLESHIP**

Luke 14:26 – Matthew 15:39; 19:19 Jesus wants disciples to honor their parents.

Matthew 5:43-48 – Love your enemy, so he cannot here tell us to hate. Our understanding of the word “hate” is determined by the context of all his teachings. The word today has many different meanings understood in context. “I hate that when that happens.” “I hate you.”

Luke 14:26 – Family does not come before the lordship of Christ.  
Your own life does not come before the lordship of Christ.

Luke 9:23-25 – The follower of Jesus must deny himself, not just his sins but himself; he cannot be self-centered. Nothing about being a Christians is self-indulgent. “Take up his cross” may have been an expression that everyone understood. The disciples probably had seen a man take up his cross, and they knew what it meant. When a man from one of their villages took up a cross and went off with a band of Roman soldiers, he was on a one-way journey. He would not be back. Taking up the cross meant the utmost in self-denial.

Luke 14:35 – Discipleship is the requirement for entrance into the Kingdom of God.  
Is Romans 10:9 and 10 a onetime act or a lifestyle?

Matthew 7:21-27 – The mere acknowledgement of the Lordship of Christ or of a belief in God is not the standard for discipleship. Lord and disciple are an interdependent relationship that is corresponding and reciprocal. In order to be a disciple, someone has to be a lord.

Matthew 28:18-20 – Reducing this commandment to a one-time act of water baptism is a major mistake. Water baptism for some may be the beginning of commitment and discipleship, and that is all. Afterward, there must be a continual baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the holy spirit.

Luke 14:25-35

**CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE**

Family before Christ  
Self before Christ  
Refuse to surrender self and follow  
Does not give up all his own possessions

**CAN BE MY DISCIPLE**

Christ before family  
Christ before self  
Surrender all and follow  
Does give up all for him

Discipleship and grace are parallel and not contradictory as some may think. “I am saved by grace and not by works” should not be the mantra dismissing the words of Christ and his requirement of discipleship. Our firm adherence to the lordship of Christ is not the thing that

makes salvation available to humanity, but it is the requirement necessary to receive what is available by grace. Is every human saved?

1 Timothy 6:3-5

When people are given a set formula for attaining salvation such as circumcision, baptism, religious associations, etc., once complied to, the real requirement of the lordship of Christ becomes less significant or totally insignificant. People deceive themselves by ignoring the reality presented in the Scriptures. We tend to justify habitual ungodly behavior by comparing it to the things we think we do that are right. From the beginning, the devil has craftily deceived people so that they do not inherit eternal life.

Luke 15:1-32 – The righteous attitude toward the unsaved

Luke 16:1-8 – The sons of this age act more shrewdly than sons of light. The unjust steward knew his situation was coming to the end, so he made provision. Jesus tells his disciples over and over that the end is coming, so we should prepare for it now. **DO NOT LIVE FOR NOW; RATHER, LIVE FOR THE KINGDOM.**

Luke 16:10-12 – We are commanded to live the right way now. Work hard, be honest with your time, do not steal, pay your taxes, care for your belongings, do not be wasteful, do not be stingy, live clean and equitable in all your dealings with your fellow man. These things should be easy for you to do.

Luke 16:13 – Plain statement of fact that most people do not believe

Luke 16:15 – Great insight into righteous living

Luke 16:18 – Righteous living requires you to make your marriage work. God disqualifies men in the ministry who do not have a good marriage or do not raise their children in the right way.