

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



WANNA GET STUFFED?

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

The beatitudes show us how to live a life that is “blessed” by God. The distinct lifestyle of the Christian as described in Matthew 5 is foreign to worldly concepts of happiness and blessing. The world thinks the path to happiness is **more!** More money, power, beauty, authority, and stuff pave the pathway to happiness. With Jesus, what matters is faithful obedience from the heart. If you want to live for God, you must be ready to say and do what seems strange to the world. You must be willing to give when others take; love when others hate; and help when others hurt. Choosing attitudes and actions that are pleasing to Jesus bring the blessing of God.

America is a rich and blessed nation. However, statistics show that nearly 50 million Americans suffer from hunger and 1 in 6 don't know where their next meal will come from. Have you ever been **REALLY** hungry? I once fasted for twenty days and nights (on purpose). Was I hungry? YOU BET! But in addition to extreme hunger, I experienced headaches, irritability, physical weakness, sleeplessness, constipation, and inability to concentrate. The fact is, it was difficult to think about anything except my growling empty stomach!

In Matthew 5:6 Jesus is speaking about **THAT** kind of hunger and thirst for **righteousness**. Righteousness is the third and final inner quality Jesus says brings blessedness to His followers.

1. Discuss times when you've experienced real hunger or thirst for something, and how you felt. Would you include craving or longing for in your description? Explain.
2. Can a person hunger and thirst (crave or long for) **WRONG** things as well as **RIGHT** things? Give examples. What kind of results have you seen from those choices?
3. Why is it important for disciples of Jesus to hunger and thirst for and be filled with **RIGHT** things?
4. What is **spiritual RIGHTEOUSNESS**?
5. If you agree that righteousness refers to your right standing before God which results in behavior that reflects His very nature, what is the **SOURCE** of that righteousness?
6. Righteousness is a gift from God through Jesus Christ. You can't accomplish righteousness on your own. So how does verse 6 say we get it? See Matthew 7:7-8.
7. When you have a **CRAVING** for pie, or chocolate, or ice cream, or steak, etc, what do you normally do?
8. Do you **LONG FOR** and **CRAVE** righteousness? Who can satisfy your need?
9. What change in attitude would you need to adopt, or what action would you have to take, for Jesus to be able to fill your longing?
10. Discuss what the following statement means to you: You cannot be a true disciple of Jesus without a definitive spiritual change that includes confession of your need, repentance of your sin, submissive trust, faithful obedience, and a desire to be filled with the things of God.

11. How does being filled with God's righteousness affect your life on a daily basis?

Pray for an insatiable daily inner hunger and thirst to be **STUFFED** with the righteousness of God. Ask God to let your blessedness spill out of you and be a blessing to others.