

Blessed are they which do Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness

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Matthew 5:6 - "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Jesus now discusses those who hunger and thirst. However, He isn't talking about physical hungering and thirsting; He is discussing spiritual hunger and thirst — hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

Righteousness should be our every aim. Righteousness characterizes men and women of God. But what is righteousness? Psalm 119:172 says, "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for **all thy commandments are righteousness**" (emphasis mine throughout, TCG). Job said: "I have esteemed the words of his mouth **more than my necessary food**" (Job. 23:12). Solomon wrote: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and **keep his commandments**: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecc. 12:13-14).

Simply put, the kind of hungering and thirsting that leads to being blessed, Jesus says, is hungering and thirsting after keeping the commandments of God! But which ones? The Ten Commandments? The commandments of the Law of Moses? The Law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments, were taken out of the way, being nailed to Jesus' cross (Eph. 2:14-15; Col. 2:14; 2 Cor. 3:1ff). That said, nine out of the ten do still apply today (all of them but keeping the Sabbath Day are repeated in the New Testament).

So what is it then? Jesus said in John 14:15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In John 15:10, He said: "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Jesus was talking to an Old Testament audience, who would soon be living in the New Testament. People living under the Old Testament proved their love for God by living their lives in OBEDIENCE to His commandments, and people living in the New Testament do just the same! While some of the particulars have changed (from Old Testament to New), the principle of righteousness being true love for God and obeying His commandments still applies!

Thus, those who HUNGER and THIRST after righteousness, that is to say, those who have STRONG DESIRE for righteousness equal to (and, really, even greater than) their desire for necessary FOOD and DRINK, will lead the kinds of lives that are pleasing in God's sight. Therefore, they will be blessed by God! May we all have this intense desire to be righteous in God's sight, keeping all of the commandments that God gave to us in His New Testament!