

The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-16

The Character and Witness of the Citizens of the Kingdom

- I. **Transformation – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied (5.6)**
 - A. The pursuit for righteousness is not popular even among professing Christians.
 1. Many people are prepared to seek other things: spiritual maturity, real happiness, end time prophecies or the Spirit's power and gifts.
 2. Others go from preacher to preacher, from book to book, conference to conference seeking some vague "blessings" from on high.
 3. They hunger for spiritual experience not the righteousness of God
 4. While those things do have some value, they are not as basic as righteousness
 - B. A person who has the first three beatitudes will be characterized as hungry and thirsty for righteousness
 1. He does not think of righteousness as an optional luxury to add to other graces
 2. He hungers and thirsts for it; he cannot get along without righteousness; it is an important to him as food and water
 - C. What is the righteousness that we must pursue?
 1. It does not refer to the righteousness that is credited to the believer's account as God reckons the believer's sin to Jesus Christ
 2. The righteousness here (and in verses 10 and 20) means a pattern of life in conformity to God's will.
 3. His delight is in the Word of God for that is where God's will is revealed
 4. Righteousness becomes the most desirable thing in the world
 5. The result will be that the person will be filled with righteousness and thus be satisfied (John 4:14; 6:35)

6. Although satisfied with Christ, one is never satisfied because one wants more of Him (Phil. 3:10)
7. There is a cycle of growth – the more a person pursues conformity to God’s will, the more attractive the goal becomes and the greater the advances made

D. Progression of Scripture

1. John 4: 1-38 – a well within her: Jesus’ relationship with His Father was fulfilling
2. John 6:1-71 – it is enduring food; their reaction was cannibalism
3. Isaiah 55:1-5 – invitation to the person of Jesus Christ; become filled with Him
4. John 12:23-26 – we must die to receive His life
5. Isaiah 55:6-13 – invitation to come to Him; precipitation and evaporation illustration
6. Rom. 12:1-2 - renewing of the mind
7. Col. 3:1-4 - know His Word in our spirit
8. John 6:63 - His Words are life and satisfaction

Summary

We have died to this world and our life is now hidden with Christ in God. Jesus Christ now commands us to no longer seek fulfillment for the desires of the flesh within the system of this world and invites us to come to Him for the fulfillment of our total person in Him. We die to our life in this world and desire Him only. That is discipleship.