

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – February 13, 2022

Theme: The Beatitudes Topic: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst

Main Texts: John 4:13-19; Psalm 42:1-11

Key verse: Matthew 5:6 – *‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.’ (NIV)*

INTRODUCTION: The point was made that the ‘Beatitudes’ describes the traits of those who belong to God’s kingdom. And so far, we have looked at three of those qualities. These three deal with the condition of the heart – the poor (I can’t make it on my own) spirit, mourning, and meekness. Today, we are continuing with the fourth beatitude – the blessedness of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6). As humans, we have our natural hunger and thirst for food, things, etc. But what is this hunger and thirst for righteousness? Here are some other versions of Matthew 5:6: *“Blessed [joyful, nourished by God’s goodness] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [those who actively seek right standing with God], for they will be [completely] satisfied.” (AMP)* *“Great blessings belong to those who want to do right more than anything else. God will fully satisfy them.” (Matt. 5:6 ERV)* *“Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!” (GNT).*

This fourth beatitude pertains to our relationship with the Lord in our pursuit of Him rather than a pursuit of some experience or blessing.

1. (a) Can you mention some of the things people crave (hunger and thirst) for today in the world? (b) Looking at the different versions of Matthew 5:6, what does Jesus Christ mean by ‘hunger and thirst for righteousness’? (c) Why is this such an important expectation of God from someone who is a citizen of God’s kingdom?

In the opening sermon on this series on the Beatitudes, our attention was drawn to the fact that our Lord Jesus was preaching to His disciples. In other words, this sermon was to believers, who already have the righteousness of God imputed to them through Christ. Yet, the promised blessing is to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. In Psalm 42:1-2, the Psalmist illustrates his condition with that of a deer: *“... As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?” (NKJV).* A deer races for the water brook when it is thirsty. At other times, the brook is a place to escape from danger. We have seen what this righteousness is and acknowledge that it is imputed to the believer through faith in Christ Jesus. But why should we pant for it?

2. Read Psalm 42; 63:1-5 (a) List the circumstances or events in your life that are preventing you from hoping in God. (b) Why is it important for a believer to actively hunger and thirst for God? And what can we learn from the ways the Psalmist actively pursued God amid his situations? (c) In John 4: 15, the Samaritan woman thought a drink from Jesus means never coming back again. What is wrong with such mindset and how does it compare with the Psalmist’s mindset?

Dead people do not hunger! To hunger and thirst after righteousness is a sign of life. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness is all about our relationship with God. In Psalm 42, the Psalmist refers to God a total of twenty-one times! And in John 15:5b, Jesus emphatically stated that *‘apart from Me you can do nothing.’* In John 4:14, Jesus said *“But whoever drinks the water that I give him will never be thirsty again. But the water that I give him will become in him a spring of water [satisfying his thirst for God] welling up [continually flowing, bubbling within him] to eternal life.” (AMP).* So, God promises not only will our thirst be quenched, but that there will be a continual flow of that blessing.

3. Read Psalm 17:5; 19:9-11; Isaiah 55:1-2 (a) What are some of the blessings due to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness? (b) How do these compare with what is popularly considered as blessings of righteousness? (c) How does Matthew 6:33 help us refocus our pursuits?

Prayer: LORD, thank You for teaching us the blessedness of hungering and thirsting after Your righteousness today. Please give us hearts that continually hunger and thirst for Your righteousness. In Jesus’ name, Amen.