



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

March 12th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:6

6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled

6 "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat. Msg Paraphrase

Think of a time where you either have been really hungry or thirsty, can you remember what you eventually got to eat or drink?

What does it mean, for example in the business or arts world, 'to be hungry for it'?

Debbie Downer says about Matthew 5:6 "That's a stupid goal – I mean righteousness, really? The Bible says that our righteousness is but filthy rags before God¹ and no one is righteous no not one². And besides, no one can be made right with God no matter how much they try! ³ And when it comes to Jesus' statement "Be perfect as your father in heaven is perfect"⁴ O please give me a break – yeah right, I'm sure that's possible!" Isaiah 64:6 1, Romans 3:10² Romans 3:20 ³ Matthew 5:48

In what way is Debbie both right and wrong?

Construct an answer to Debbie about righteousness based on Romans 3:21-26

Jesus commends and promises something when a person who hungers and thirsts for righteousness. The Christian journey has been described as 'coming to Jesus and becoming like Jesus'. If we come to Christ by faith and grace alone, we then begin the journey of seeking to be formed in his image. This is called sanctification. One person has said salvation is easy, sacrifice is hard.

What five words can you think of that describe someone who hungers to become Christlike in character and conduct?

Righteousness in the Bible then has two meanings: one – to be technically declared right before God by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:4-10) because of Jesus' death and resurrection, this is referred to as salvation. The second is the lifelong journey shaping of our lives by the Holy Spirit and our commitment to rightly, to have conduct and character that is like Christ's. To live rightly as God has intended us to. In fact, to hunger for it. says – The Bible states we are not saved by good works, but we are created and saved for good works. (Eph 2:10)

What great promise do we find in John 6:35? How does that relate to the notion of 'filled' in our text for today?

As your life now stands, what is the major thing in your life that you would want to change to become more like Jesus? Why not tell God about it right now?