

If We Hunger and Thirst

In Matthew chapter 5, we are introduced to what has been called the greatest sermon ever preached: The Sermon on the Mount.

As Jesus “opened his mouth and taught” the multitude, he revealed to them moral characteristics that precede spiritual prosperity: Blessed are the poor in spirit...Blessed are they that mourn...Blessed are the meek...Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness...Blessed are the merciful...Blessed are the pure in heart...Blessed are the peacemakers...Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake...Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you” (5:1-11).

As we consider the “Beatitudes,” we would like to direct our attention to one verse, upon which the rest hinge: “Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

The apostle Paul indicated that righteousness is a standard when he said, “For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:2-3).

Jesus affirmed that if we hunger and thirst after God’s standard we will be filled. This term filled, is defined as, “to fodder, i.e., to gorge (supply food in abundance). If we will hunger and thirst after God’s standard, God will provide it “in abundance,” and when we have gorged ourselves on the righteousness of God, we will be better equipped to obtain the rest of God’s blessings. ret