

Session 4: Matthew 5:6

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, God will satisfy us himself and establish order in our relationships.

Head Change: To know God wants us to be righteous, rightly related to him.

Heart Change: To feel the desire to live in a right relationship with God.

Life Change: To live in a right relationship with God and, as a result, grow into a right relationship with ourselves, with others, and with the earth.

OPEN

**How do you act when you are hungry or thirsty?
How does it change the way you treat others?**

We all know what it's like to be hungry and thirsty. Our body's need—its inherent dissatisfaction—alerts us to the thing it needs to be satisfied with, whether food or drink. And that desire can change the way we act, for better or worse.

Just like our bodies hunger for food, Christians should hunger for righteousness, or to be rightly related to God. Jesus makes clear in Matthew 5:6, that our hunger and thirst will change us, but not for the worse. When he satisfies our longing, all our relationships will be made right.

READ

Read Matthew 5:1–12. Continue your work to commit this passage to memory.

[illegible]

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Matt's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

How are the Beatitudes “achieved”?

What are the four relationships the cross heals in our lives?

According to Matt, what is the pathway to satisfaction?

Show Session 4: *Matthew 5:6* (10 minutes).

DISCUSS

In the fourth Beatitude, Jesus uses the imagery of hunger and thirst to describe our yearnings for righteousness. Read Matthew 5:6. **What have you understood Jesus to be speaking about here? How have you heard this passage taught in the past?**

Matt mentioned that being hungry and thirsty for righteousness isn't a feeling we can muster up. Self-motivation comes and goes quickly, and beating ourselves up for not having a feeling won't lead us to satisfaction. **What have been the results, personally, as you've tried to manufacture a hunger and thirst for righteousness in the past?**

Matt identified the four major relationships we experience in life, each of which is affected by righteousness. If any of our relationships are going to flourish, we have to first figure out our relationship with God. This Beatitude encourages us to recognize the break in our relationship with God and to long for him to mend it. **Do you feel that you have to fix your relationship with God?**

Based on what you know about the Bible and what Matt said in the video, what has God done to mend your relationship with him? Do you feel that Jesus's sacrifice is enough to forgive you, or do you think

[illegible]

you have to also add some of your own good works to be right with God? Why?

We tend to understand righteousness as only right behavior, but, as Matt said, moral conformity is a by-product of “right relatedness” to God. **What are some ways we get that backward, thinking right behavior produces a right relationship? In what ways do you think relating to God rightly will lead to right moral behavior?**

God also made us social creatures—we were made to relate to one another. But our social relationships are not perfect. Even our closest relationships can be unhealthy. **Why do you think even the best relationships can fall apart? In what ways do you need God's help mending relationships in your sphere of influence?**

When we are rightly related to God, we realize that we are sinful and we are forgiven. We bring our brokenness into every relationship we are a part of and should be quick to mend relationships when our sin affects other people. We should also be quick to forgive, knowing that the person we are in conflict with is loved by God.

What makes it difficult to be quick to seek and give forgiveness? In what ways do you need God's help to be rightly related to others?

The third relationship, our relationship with ourselves, is often the most difficult to figure out. We don't think of ourselves as overly critical or lacking self-control; our behavior, broken as it is, feels normal. **How would you describe your relationship with yourself? What can you do to relate to yourself rightly? How can pursuing a deeper relationship with God help you relate to yourself in a healthier way?**

*[Note: For further study on the way we relate to ourselves and, specifically, our bodies, see **Go Deeper Section 1** at the end of this session.]*

The fourth and final relationship is our relationship to the earth. This relationship can feel abstract, but Matt described it as our relationship to creation and culture.

LAST WORD

GO DEEPER

when we come hungry and thirsty for him, we will be filled.

Set aside some time this week to enter God’s presence in these three ways: by the regular reading of his Word, by participating in the weekly church gathering, and by spending a few moments in silence and solitude.

RightNow Presents The Beatitudes
STUDY GUIDE

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