



Beatitudes – Blessed are Those Who Long

Date: Sunday 17th May

Speaker: Jon Solway

Key Verses: Matthew 5:6

Talk Summary:

Hunger and thirst

- Jesus was talking about emotional and spiritual hunger. (Psalm 42, Psalm 63)
- Jesus meant longing - longing for a deep, unmet need – an all-consuming desires of our hearts that can't be ignored.

'What does righteousness even mean?' There are three aspects to it:

1. Hunger and thirst for right relationships

- God designed us to exist in right-relationship. Right-relationship with Him, with others, and with the world.
- Jesus was speaking to those who had broken relationships with people around them, and with God.
- Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are those who see a lack of 'right-ness', in their relationships and the relationships around them.
- To live with righteousness is to live with faithfulness and goodness in your relationships with others, and in your relationship with God.
- We have all been hurt by and hurt others ourselves. - How is Jesus inviting you to step forwards in pursuing righteousness in that relationship?
- All we need to do to restore a right-relationship with *God* is come to Jesus and accept Him, and what he has done for us. You can do that at any time.

2. Hunger and thirst for social Justice:

- As we look out into the world, we see mistreatment, abuse, manipulation, exploitation - from one person to another, from one culture to another, from one society to another.

- Blessed are those who take notice, and who are disturbed to their core when they see these things, who cannot sit by and be okay with these things happening
- As Tim Mackie puts it, 'they notice something that God notices - that all is not well in the world that He made, and that God is going to do something about it - He's going to bring His Kingdom.'
- Justice in the Bible means to make right. It's important to recognise that the Bible doesn't mean taking revenge, but instead means waiting for God, and trusting in Him.
- God is a God of justice. He is Justice, and He will bring about justice where there has been injustice.
- Jesus invites us to represent Him, and to be part of the solution, to take part in bringing God's Kingdom to the earth.

3. Hunger and thirst to live right:

- There are so many times in our lives when we choose the wrong course of action, we do the wrong thing, or we neglect to do something that we should do.
- These are all opportunities that God gives us, to turn to Him, to ask for forgiveness and to hunger and thirst for His righteousness.
- As we spend more time with Him, our old desires begin to fade, and we begin to actually desire what God desires. Our appetite for the old decreases, and God gives us a new appetite.
- This is important because, as we act rightly, we become a transforming force towards righteousness.
- When someone treats us unfairly, but we respond with right-living, with the right course of action, we are representing Jesus and bringing righteousness into the world.
- How might you need to change your spiritual diet, your routines, so that coming to God isn't something that happens now and again, but instead is a sustainable habit, and rhythm of connection?

'They shall be filled'

- The Hebrew word that Matthew uses in this passage translates like fattening up of animals, absolutely filled to the brim, couldn't eat anything else.
- As one theologian wrote: "Never was there a desire to be holy which God was not willing to gratify, and the gospel of Christ has made provision to satisfy all who truly desire to be holy."
- This is God's promise. All who hunger will be satisfied. Just as Jesus says in John 4:14.

Worship

- Start your time together with a centring prayer exercise, or some musical worship.
 - More ideas at bvc.so/sgworship or bvc.so/sgprayer

Word

- What are your longings at this time? What are you longing to be different? (Personal, relational, social, spiritual)
- How might you need to change your spiritual diet, your routines, so that coming to God isn't something that happens now and again, but instead is a sustainable habit, and rhythm of connection?
- How can you be a catalyst for righteousness and the kingdom at this time? (family, friends, neighbourhood, city, nation)
- What would it look like to have a heart satisfied in God? What does John 4:14 look like for us now?

Witness

- Get your small group or a group of friends together and participate in the Care Packs for Vulnerable Women donation drive, through 31st May. More info at bvc.so/carepacks
- The Big Online Quiz is Saturday, 23rd May. Who could you invite to the quiz who doesn't know Jesus yet? To book on, go to <https://bvc.so/bigquiz>