

## SERMON NOTES

### “Hungering and Thirsting”

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October 12, 2014

### HUNGERING AND THIRSTING in the SERMON ON THE MOUNT

**Matthew 5:6** Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled/satisfied

### HUNGERS OUT OF ORDER?

#### Hungering for Food -- Matthew 6:16-21

16 ‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

#### Hungering for Sexual Intimacy -- Matthew 5:27-30

27 ‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.”

28 **But I say to you** that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 *If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.* 30 *And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.*

#### Hungering for Money -- Matthew 6:19-20

19 ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;

20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### [SEE ALSO

Hungering for Power – Matthew 20:20-21

Hungering for Recognition – Matthew 23:6-7]

### Righteousness = Greek: *dikaiaosunē*; Hebrew: *tz edekah*

= A passion for Right-Relatedness that leads to Right-Action--

Individually → Love, Reconciliation, Care, Kindness, etc.

Corporately → Fairness, Justice, etc.

**NOTE:** “God’s Righteousness” is a major theme in Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

It is God’s passion to do the right thing (a righteous act) in order to bring us into a right (righteous) relationship with God. The “right-thing” was a costly act of free grace by God himself – the death and resurrection of Jesus – through which the “right thing” (because it was both just and loving) was done to perfectly pay for all our sins.

For human beings, to be “righteous” with respect to God does not mean that we are “morally perfect,” but that, despite our imperfection, God has placed us into a perfectly-right relationship with himself, through his righteous action on our behalf in Jesus’ death and resurrection. This is Good News! Indeed, the best news ever.

### HUNGERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS . . . “RIGHT-RELATEDNESS”

#### Getting it Wrong with God -- Matthew 6.1-2

‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

#### Getting it Right with God -- Psalm 42

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

#### Getting it Right with God and Others -- Matthew 5:23-24

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

#### Getting it Right with Others

**Matthew 5:38-41--** ‘You have heard that it was said,

“*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*” **But I say to you**, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.

**Matthew 7:12** -- In everything, do unto others

as you would have them do unto you.