

## Matthew 5:6

### The Christ Who Feeds and Fills the Hunger for Righteousness that He Forms in Us

**Saturday, December 2, 2023 • Read Matthew 5:6**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who are blessed in v6? For what do they hunger? What else do they do for righteousness? What will be done for them?*

**What difference does Christ make in the heart of a believer?** Matthew 5:6 prepares us for the morning sermon on the Lord's Day. In this verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Christ changes the objects of a believer's hunger and thirst, while feeding the believer and guaranteeing his full satisfaction.**

There was a contentedness with God in the meekness of v5, but we remember from v4 that it is accompanied by a holy discontentedness with ourselves. In this life, we simply are not righteous like we ought to be (and neither are others toward us). If our hunger and thirst is for righteousness, we will be constantly hungry and thirsty (v6a)! This simply isn't the new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells (cf. 2Pet 3:13).

**Formed.** The blessed man has been given a new, holy nature. He is both set apart by God and brought out of himself and into Christ (cf. Rom 6:3–4, 8:16–17). This is sometimes called positional sanctification. Though his sin remains in him (cf. Rom 7:17–23), he is not in his sin. The Spirit of God leads him in a life that is against his remaining sin (cf. Rom 8:9–14). All of this means that the believer has had a "hunger and thirst" transplant. Everyone is hungry for something. And now the believer hungers and thirsts for righteousness—both in his own character and in the whole heavens and earth. The believer longs that both he, and all creation, would be as Christ is rightfully owed that they would be.

**Fed.** If we think of positional sanctification as being formed, then we might think of progressive sanctification as being fed. The blessed man has already found Christ to be fully satisfying. And Christ, Who is perfectly righteous in Himself, more and more works out that righteousness in the character and conduct of the Christian. As the hunger that He gives us corresponds to the work that He does in us, we enjoy the goodness of Christ all our life long. He feeds our hunger.

**Filled!** This hunger and thirst won't just be fed. It will be satisfied. Positional sanctification and progressive sanctification always end in glorification. The work completed in us. The resurrection, together with a new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells. Never again sinning and never again sinned against.

But there is also a filling that is in the present. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness find that Christ Himself is satisfying already. We even praise God that He is completely satisfied with us in Christ.

But there is also a filling that is in the future. God, Who loves us with adopting love, is not satisfied to leave us as we are. He is determined to conform us to the image of His Son (cf. Rom 8:29). Therefore, we are not satisfied to remain as we are. Trying to live in a manner that is content with remaining sin is a common mistake of our antinomian age. But the promise in v6 is set in the future. They *shall be* filled. Our happiness is forward-looking to glory.

Here is a marvelous guarantee: we in whom the Spirit has created this hunger shall ultimately be filled. The work that He has begun in us WILL be completed (cf. Ph 1:6). We WILL be conformed to Christ's image (cf. Ro 8:29–30). And even as we purify ourselves as He is pure, we are doing this precisely because we have that assured hope that we will be like Him (cf. 1Jn 3:2–3).

In what ways do you find yourself hungry and thirsty for righteousness? How should your hunger and thirst respond to Christ Himself? When have you enjoyed this satisfaction recently? How will you aim to be enjoying it? How should your hunger and thirst respond to your current progress in sanctification? How have you been doing so? How do you intend to do so? How should your hunger and thirst respond to your remaining sin? How have you been doing so? How do you intend to do so? How should your hunger and thirst respond to the world as it currently is? How will you pray, if you desire the world to be filled with righteousness? What are you doing unto that end?

*Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving us Christ's own desire for righteousness. Thank You for the grace by which You are feeding that hunger in our lives by growth in holiness. And thank You for the certainty that when You have finished Your work in us, we shall be perfectly righteous. Grant that we would continue to hunger until You have filled us, we ask through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP23B "The Lord's My Shepherd" or TPH464 "The Beatitudes"**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Matthew 5 verse 6 blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. For they shall be filled. Notice in the first word that we're still. Referring to those who are the blessed. This is, Still the lord jesus addressing those. Disciples. Who Leaving the world behind leaving the multitudes behind.

Have noticed that when jesus saw the multitudes he was drew himself up the mountain. But then they especially saw that he took the common posture in which He would teach in the synagogues. He sat down. And so, knowing that he sat down to teach, They went up to him.

To listen. And so they are the blessed ones who have found jesus and his word. More to them than anything else. So blessed. And now he goes on to describe another aspect. Of the work that his spirit and he, pours out, who grants that repentance that conversion, be ye converted for the kingdom of heaven as a hand.

And the thing that is necessary, or the way by which someone may be converted, is not by the water that john poured. But the spirit in jesus, Pores. And the fourth. Now aspect of that work, that the spirit does is giving them a hunger and thirst. Transplant. So, he had described.

The poverty of spirit the morning, the humility slash meekness slash gentleness. And now Blaster those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Everyone is hungry and thirsty for something because we are finite and needy God. Has no need. He is unchangeable. He is impassable. Nothing can affect him. Uh, we are not so.

We hunger and thirst. And amazingly the lord jesus. Hungered and thirsted. He Added that to himself when he added humanity. To himself for our sakes. And as soon as he, Uh, receive the baptism of john identifying himself with our Neediness. The spirit who also descended from. Um, the heaven that had been opened.

That's his baptism. Carried him out into the wilderness and led him. Not just geographically. Uh, to the wilderness but spiritually. In fasting and prayer and meditation upon God's word. For 40 days. And certainly,

As the lord jesus. Was fasting and praying and meditating upon God's word for 40 days. He knew a greater hunger. A hunger for god's righteousness on the earth. A hunger for god's righteousness, especially. Four and in those whom he Had come to save. And the spirit of christ gives us the same hunger.

Hunger and thirst for righteousness in the earth. When a hunger and thirst. For righteousness, and those whom the lord, jesus came to save. And he makes us hungry and thirsty for the righteousness. That is in jesus. Himself. Now, praise god. He does not give this hunger and thirst without the intention.

That it should be met. And so we're considering the, they shall be filled, which is future and full shall be filled. Not just in the final future. Satisfaction of this hunger and this thirst. But first in the forming of the hunger and thirst, About which we've already begun thinking.

And then in the feeding of this hunger and thirst. And then finally in that future perfected state, To which the last part of the verbs. Refers. The feeling. The satisfying of that hunger. And thirst, the blessed man. By this work of the spirit that we had begun thinking about And language from the book of matthew thus far.

He has been given a holy and new nature. One of the things that has baptism testifies to him. Not the baptism of John. But the Christian baptism that is commanded at the end of this gospel. One of the things that baptism testifies to him. Is that the Lord Jesus is the one who has all authority.

Not only on earth but in heaven. And that he is the one who gives us to become disciples. And he is the one who gives us. To keep. All that, he has commanded because he is the one who is with us. Always Even to the end of the age.

Excuse me. And so remember in Romans, when there were those who here gospel words but are not having a gospel response. And yet, they have been baptized. The Lord Jesus addresses them. Reminding them that it is not water baptism, that is the great baptism of the Christian. But it is that baptizing of the spirit from Jesus.

Jesus baptizing of the spirit from heaven and what the spirit does. That doesn't miss baptize you into a name or a church? The way that Christian baptism. Baptizes you into the number of the disciples by baptizing you into the name, father, son, and Holy Spirit. Spirit baptism. The Lord, Jesus is boring.

His spirit out, you baptizes you into Jesus Himself. And so the old you that was apart from Jesus is dead. And there's a completely new, you. That is now united to Jesus Christ with a new nature. That hates evil. And loves the good. And, As frankly. Longing, groaning to be rid of what remains from the old nature.

Including the body of this death. And all of this sinfulness. That pertained to the old, you Um, That came with the body of this death. And so the blessed man has been given a new and holy nature. Here's both set apart by God. And brought out of himself and into Christ.

The version of you that was in yourself dead gone crucified. The new version of you walking in oneness of life by the resurrection. Of the Lord Jesus. Now, this forming of your new hunger and thirst, the old. You And thirsted for pleasure hundred, and thirsted for sin. Would do things like hear about how?

Uh, we're sin increases grace increases all the more and says Yes, that means I can sin more so that grace will increase more. But as we've been hearing in, Romans, that's not a response that comes. From the spirit from the new self in Christ, in union within that response comes from the remaining sin, the remaining flesh.

This formation of new hunger that says, I am so hungry and thirsty. To not just be satisfied with the righteousness. That is in Jesus. But to see his righteousness, worked out in me. So that I never see. Sin. In me and coming out of me again.

Though, the believers remaining sin. Dwells in him. As we heard, and Roman 7:17 to 23. The believer does not dwell in his sin does not. It does not remain in his sin. And so you have the flesh and the spirit but we're in the spirit. And the spirit of God leads us in the life.

That is against our remaining sin. Like, we heard about in Romans 8, 9 through 14. So the believer has had a hunger and thirst transplant. The first thing about this hunger and thirst for righteousness in verse 6. Is that it was the Holy Spirit who formed it in us to begin with.

We don't start out with a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Excuse me. The. Being told that those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, will be filled, does not mean you produce A hundred and thirst for righteousness yourself. Only the Lord, produces it. It does mean. You distinguish. Between your former hungerings and thirstings.

And your new hunger and thirsty for righteousness. And you starve, the former And you look to God by grace to feed the latter. And it means that if you don't have hunger and thirst for righteousness, Or you recognize how small you're interested for. Righteousness is You know, to whom to look for hunger for righteousness.

God will give it to you. You know, to whom to look for thirst for righteousness. Christ by his spirit poured out. Gives it to you. And you are hungry and thirsty. Not just that, you would be righteous. But that everything would be righteous. Because this is what Jesus deserves.

This is what Paul prophesied about him. This is what was promised to him. This is what he has earned. By his saving work. So first, the hunger and thirst for righteousness are formed. Second there also Fed. If we thought of positional sanctification, As that moment in which a new hunger and thirst are formed in us.

Then we might think of progressive sanctification. Becoming more and more, holy and character, and conduct. As the feeding. Of this new hunger and thirst. Don't have to wait until glory. To enjoy the Lord, giving us Righteousness. In our character and in our conduct. He makes a genuine difference in us.

It won't be perfected in this life but it is real and it is good. The blessed man has already found Christ to be fully satisfying. So, we're already You know, fed just by the enjoyment of who Jesus is. It's not just, uh, Momentary. Resting upon Christ's righteousness that that happens once at the beginning of the Christian life, we continue to live by faith.

We continue to rest upon the righteousness of Christ, and we increasingly rejoice. And how righteous he is. As the one who stands for us. But not only that Christ, more and more works out. His righteousness in us. And as he gives us to taste of the good of the age to come, as he conforms us to himself more and more.

We are not to grow. Puffed up about the progress, we have made in faith. The amount that's left to be done. Should be enough to humiliate us. Shows us how fleshly we still are. If it doesn't But, If rather than looking at how much there is yet to be done, we are amazed.

At how much has been done and how much is being done. Which considered by itself is actually a miracle of grace. Then we will find ourselves. Continually. Savoring the goodness of Jesus. Even in the work that he is doing in us by his spirit. Even in such a one as me.

In his heart, there is so much sin that remains in whose life. There is so much sin that remains And yet the Lord Jesus. Dwells in my heart through faith. And works on my heart by grace. And so there is that wonderful feeding. That is part of this, they shall be filled.

Because the the satisfying of our hunger and thirst for righteousness. Is not something. That begins in the last day. Although it is something that is only completed in the last day. That is something that we enjoy increasingly. Throughout this life. And that really is blessed. Now, being hungry, you're thirsty is not the Most pleasant feeling in the world.

Some of you. Um, Get very hungry and Just we're all different. Um, don't like being hungry. But, The. Enjoyment of The provision even before your full. There's a real enjoyment is a real blessing. And we are as it were. Enjoying already the appetizers. Of everlasting fullness. Of the righteousness of God.

Uh, but it's not just appetizers that are promised. The. Future, and Full or perfect. Satisfaction of this hunger is actually. What is being described here in verse 6? Bluster, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. For they shall be fed. Or to put it in the language that we have already used a couple of times.

Positional sanctification. When you are, Called. Holy by God and constituted. As a new person with a new, holy nature by God. And progressive, sanctification. Being made more and more holy in your character and more and more holy in your conduct always has its end in glorification. Those whom he called.

He justified those, who meet justified he glorified. And so there is not only the enjoyment of what the lord has done and is doing, but these two because No one ever gets the first without the other two and no one ever gets the first two. Without the third. The enjoyment that you have already also includes or brings with it.

And enjoyment in the hope of the glory of god. That hope that doesn't disappoint, the love of god has been ordered abroad poured out shed abroad in our hearts. By Jesus Christ, we're thinking of those first eight verses. So of Romans 5 now, And this enables us to rejoice.

Not.

Excuse me. This enables us to rejoice even in our sufferings. Because suffering, produces care, perseverance, and perseverance character character, hope and hope does not disappoint us. And so, the work that Jesus is doing. In a believer already. Gives him the certainty that it will be finished. And he can already enjoy.

The reality of that certainty before he comes into it. Before he comes into the experience. Of that with about which He is certain. We rejoice in God. So rejoice in the hope of the glory of god rejoice in our sufferings, we rejoice in god himself does That progressive. The tripartite rejoicing.

And, In Romans 5. And here we are participating in that rejoicing blaster, those Who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Um, The. They have the hope and gore of the glory of god and the rejoicing in that. There are juicing in their suffering as they're suffering, is being used to produce more holiness in them.

Um, there's defeating of that hungry and thirsty. They're rejoicing in god himself. Who is the certainty? That the hope shall be fulfilled. So, one day, Everyone. Who has believed in Jesus. Will be. Perfectly righteous never sinning again. And we'll be resurrected glorious, even And conformity to Christ's body. And at the resurrection you remember, Um, there will be no sin or pain or Um, sorrow or suffering?

That's all. The resurrection there will be you haven't. And a new earth. In which righteousness dwells. And not only will we never sin, we'll never be sinned against again. Because all sinful spirits and men. Will have been cast into hell. And do not have and do not have a place.

In the new heavens and then you earth. So, we will rejoice. Over what the lord has finished doing in us. We will rejoice. Over what the lord has finished doing. And the creation. Will rejoice in seeing the lord himself. Face to face. Even as we have been purified, so that we appear like him even as we Have had produced enough, the holiness.

That was necessary for us. To see the lord. And so they shall be filled. God who loves us with adopt and love? Does not leave us as we are. He conforms us at last to the image of his son. So that the sun is the firstborn. Among many brethren.

And as our hearts and minds are conformed to Christ's. Yes, we hunger and thirst for righteousness. Now, Because there is much unrighteousness left in us and in the church, and in the world. But we hunger and thirst with. A view toward future glory. A joy that is set before us.

He desire for and confidence in. That work that will Have been completed. Whether it's that work that has been begun enough, Philippians 1, 6, Whether it's that work. That. Must be perfected in all of the church. Romans 8:29. To 30. And it is. In this hungering and thirsting for righteousness.

That we purify ourselves. Even as he is pure first John three. Those who hoped us. Purify themselves. Even as he is pure. So, the lord give us. That hunger, that thirst. That hope. The enjoyment of that blessedness. All of which are ours in Christ. Let's pray. Our gracious gardener heavenly father, we pray that Our hearts would reflect this blessedness and hope.

We pray that our habits. Would demonstrate that we are pursuing. The righteousness that we are guaranteed to have at last Thank you for counting us righteous in the lord Jesus. And constituting us near and righteous. In lord, Jesus. And we pray that you would make us always To be looking to him and being satisfied by him.

Until that day. When his work, in each of us has been fully perfected as well. Yes, these things in his name, amen.