

20 September



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Beatitudes



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you were without food for a day or two and hungered for food, or thirst for water after a long day in the sun?
2. According to Matthew 5:6 what does Jesus call those who hunger and thirst for righteousness? (**Blessed**).
3. What does Psalms 42:2 say? (**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?**).
4. What does righteousness mean? (**In right standing with God**).



Let's go deeper

5. What does Jesus promise to those who are merciful in Matthew 5:7? (**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy**).
6. What does it mean to be merciful? (**To be merciful is to show forgiveness and compassion to those in need – see Matt. 6:12**).
7. What is God's mercy? (**God's mercy is the withholding of a just punishment; it is His compassion on the miserable – see Deut. 30:3**).
8. What did Jesus tell the man in Mark 5:19 to do, after delivering him from evil spirits? (**Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you**).



Let's apply this

9. Today's choice is called the **transformation choice**, in which I submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects. It's based on what Jesus said in **Matthew 5:6**.

When I make this choice, I'm deciding that I want to allow God to replace my hurts and habits with new life.

SUMMARY:

Read: Matthew 5:1 – 7; Ecclesiastes 3:11;

- The Beatitudes:

Matthew 5:6 – 7; Jesus' Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes, a list of blessings that describe the character of those who are true servants of God and the kingdom of heaven. This teaching was part of Jesus Christ's intensive discipleship training for His twelve chosen apostles. The fourth Beatitude in Matthew 5:6 says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

The Beatitudes offer truths for living as a disciple of Christ. While each Beatitude can stand on its own, they aren't merely a collection of unrelated statements. They are linked in an unbroken chain, each one building on the previous truth. The first several Beatitudes deal with the condition of the heart; the second set deals with our relationship with the Lord; and the final grouping treats our relationships with others. Jesus always begins with the heart.

v.6; To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to have an active spiritual longing as the Psalmist writes in Psalms 42:2: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" This desire is not passive; it is a fervent continuous seeking. The servant who hungers and thirsts for righteousness is the same as the one who seeks God's kingdom and His righteousness before and above everything else (Matthew 6:33). This servant is blessed because he or she experiences a satisfied heart. This servant can say, "It is well with my soul."

v.7; To be merciful is to show forgiveness and compassion to those in need. Jesus frequently spoke of this trait. In the Lord's Prayer, He says, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). In Matthew 9:13 Jesus instructs the Pharisees, "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." We are blessed if we are merciful because mercy is something God Himself displays. God's mercy is the withholding of a just punishment; it is His compassion on the miserable. Deuteronomy 30:3 says, "The LORD your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you" (NLT). The psalmist writes, "Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy" (Psalm 28:6). Jesus Himself often showed mercy, as we see in His healing of the man freed from demons: "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you" (Mark 5:19).

Application: Today's choice is called the **transformation choice**, in which I submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects. It's based on what Jesus said in **Matthew 5:6**. When I make this choice, I'm deciding that I want to allow God to replace my hurts and habits with life