
“HOW TO CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE”

MATTHEW 5:6

SERIES: “TRUE SPIRITUALITY” (4)

WATERKLOOF BAPTIST CHURCH SERMON NOTES 25/10/2020

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Introduction

So many voices clamour about their brand of spirituality, but the right place to look is at what Jesus actually taught and lived himself.

Matthew 5:5 *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”*

A good appetite:

If you hunger and thirst for righteousness, there isn't much wrong with you!

“As the dear pants for streams of water, so my soul longs after you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God.”

-- Psalm 42:1-2

“O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek for you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

-- Psalm 63:1

A.W. Tozer: *“You can have as much of God as you want!”*

You are blessed if you have a spiritual appetite!

Not just peckish, but hungry!!

What brings a person to this point?

You are what you eat!

- Cream doughnuts
- Elvis Presley

What will cause a craving for true righteousness?

A great awakening of the soul.

Negatively: when God shakes you.

Positively, when God gets your attention through the Word.

The Great Awakening

What caused this great awakening of the soul?

Remember the order of the Beatitudes:

- Brokenness leads to mourning over sin
- Then meekness: a right view of yourself
- Then an appetite for righteousness follows.

Jonathan Edwards said that the Devil cannot produce in us a love for the glory of God.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.”

What sort of righteousness did Jesus have in mind?

In this verse, JESUS is NOT talking about:

- Imputed righteousness – being declared righteous because of the blood of Christ shed on the Cross of Calvary for the forgiveness of sins.
- Moral justice that is needed in society
- An outward righteousness

What then is Jesus talking about?

1. An Implanted Righteousness

James 1:21

2. An Unseen Righteousness

Matthew 6:1

3. An Unpretentious Righteousness

4. An Unconscious Righteousness

Luke 18:11-12

Hebrews 11:38

5. An Uncompromising Righteousness

6. An Unappreciated Righteousness

John 15:18

A yearning for righteousness

- Philippians 3:10
- Robert Murray McCheyne: *“Make me a holy man.”*

A definite outcome

“The world is looking for happiness, they make it their goal, their objective. But they do not find it, because whenever you put happiness before righteousness, you are doomed to misery. This is the great message of the Bible from beginning to end. They alone are truly happy who are seeking righteousness. Put happiness in place of righteousness, and you will never get it.”

-- Martyn Lloyd Jones

“You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until it rests in you.”

-- Augustine

Galatians 6:7-9

The paradox: the more you eat, the more hungry you become.

*“We taste Thee, O Thou living bread; And long to feast upon Thee still.
We drink of Thee, the Fountainhead; And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.”*

-- Bernard of Clairvaux

Do you have a spiritual appetite?

- Are you like Jacob, who refused to let go?
- Are you like Blind Bartimaeus, who placed himself in Christ’s way?
- Or are you like the false prophet Balaam, who wanted the blessings of righteousness, but not the life of righteousness?

“Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” –Jn. 4:14