

“Be” Attitudes

Hunger and Thirst

Review

- Jesus preached the “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew 5, 6, & 7 and Luke 6
- He begins this sermon with the eight Beatitudes.
 - A beatitude is “the declaration of blessedness made by our Savior to particular virtues.” – Webster’s 1828
- Each is tied to a state of blessedness – “Blessed are the...”
 - This is more than just being happy or fortunate.
 - It is to be content, fulfilled, and prosperous in a spiritual and not physical sense.
- In these short phrases, Christ illustrates what the attitude of a believer should be.

Hunger and Thirst

- “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” – Matthew 5:6
- *Hunger* means “To desire with great eagerness; to long for.” – Webster’s 1828
- *Thirst* means “A want and eager desire after any thing.” – Webster’s 1828
- *Hunger* and *thirst* are used here in a metaphorical sense to illustrate strong desire.
- *Desire* means “To wish for the possession or enjoyment of, with a greater or less degree of earnestness; to covet.” – Webster’s 1828
- It is natural to want things, but we must be careful that:
 - We desire the right things.
 - Not like Esau who desired stew more than his birthright in Genesis 25:29-34
 - Our desire stays in its proper bounds.
 - Not like Ahab who longed for permanent ownership of Naboth’s vineyard in I Kings 21
 - Note that it is not *money* that is evil, but the *love* of money – I Timothy 6:10
- For believers, we should desire God first and foremost – Psalm 42:1-2, 63:1-2
- The object here, however, is specifically *righteousness*.
 - Note that He does not say, “Blessed are the righteous.”
 - It implies that we lack and need an outside, greater righteousness - Isaiah 64:6
 - This is beyond self-righteousness and is the righteousness only God may grant through justification. – Galatians 3:11
 - This righteousness is found only through Christ – Romans 5:19
- “for they shall be filled”
 - Salvation is at hand through Christ for those who seek Him – John 4:10,13,14
 - Righteousness, which is a byproduct of salvation, can be ours through Christ – Philippians 3:9