

## **UPSIDE DOWN: The Beatitudes**

Lesson Five • Matthew 5:6

### **The Fullness of Hunger**

#### **Spiritual Hunger in a Junk Food World**

The tragedy of our culture is people have FULL stomachs but EMPTY hearts.

*“Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.” Isaiah 55:2 NIV*

*“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” Jeremiah 2:13 NIV*

#### **The Fourth Beatitude**

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”  
Matthew 5:6

#### **The Fullness of Hunger**

### **1. Feel the Powerful FORCE for Righteousness!**

#### **Hunger and Thirst**

Hunger and thirst depict an intense DESIRE for what you can't live without.

*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, my God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Psalm 42:1-2 NIV*

*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek You; I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You,  
in a dry and parched land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1 NIV*

#### **Righteousness—an Optional Extra?**

Just as our PHYSICAL life depends upon food and water,  
so our SPIRITUAL life depends upon righteousness.

*“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20 NKJV*

*All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.  
Isaiah 64:6 NIV*

#### **A Righteousness You Can't Live Without**

- Positional righteousness: BEING right with God in relationship to Him.

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God. 1Peter 3:18 ESV*

*For our sake He [God] made Him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Corinthians 5:21 ESV*

*And to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” Romans 4:5-8 ESV*

- Personal righteousness: LIVING right before God which pleases Him.

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” Matthew 6:33 NKJV*  
*But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness... 1Timothy 6:11 NKJV*  
*So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way...  
Colossians 1:10 NIV*

#### **Do You Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness?**

Hunger and thirst for righteousness is a SIGN of spiritual life and health.

### **2. Find the Promised FULLNESS of Righteousness!**

#### **The Promise of Satisfaction**

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be FILLED with righteousness.

*Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35 NIV*

*Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. Revelation 7:16-17 NIV*

#### **What Are You Hungry and Thirsty For?**

Make RIGHTEOUSNESS the hunger and thirst of your life  
and you will be satisfied now and forever.