

(1) Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? If so, how does this manifest itself in your daily life? If you don't, why not? What might be hindering you from pursuing righteousness?

(2) What does Jesus mean by "righteousness"? How do we hunger and thirst for it without becoming legalistic or Pharisaical or falling into a salvation-by-works mentality? Later in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says that our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. What does this mean? What does it not mean?

(3) Is it possible to be both merciful and just at the same time? How do we resist the temptation to let one trump the other?

(4) If you struggle with showing mercy to others, read Ephesians 2:4-5 and 1 Peter 1:3. How do these texts influence your capacity and incentive to show mercy?

(5) What is the difference between mercy and tolerance?