



# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

DOXA CHURCH

## FLOURISHING ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“Blessed [Flourishing] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”*

*Matthew 5:6*

### OVERVIEW

There is a progressive nature to Jesus’ sermon on the mountain. Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (5:3) is Jesus’ way of saying you are flourishing if you know you are spiritually impoverished because you recognize your need for God. As you see your spiritual poverty and the brokenness that your sin and the sin of others brings about you are flourishing when you mourn the results of sin for you will be comforted (5:4) - God will comfort you. And the reason for all the sin and brokenness is because we have not been meek people who recognize where our power and gifts are from (God) and we don’t use them as he purpose (For his glory and others’ good). That is why is it truly human (Flourishing/Blessed) to be meek, for the meek will inherit the earth (5:5).

In light of all of this, we are left with a hunger and a thirst. We hunger and thirst for righteousness - for Shalom (Peace/Justice) - we hunger for the world as God created it to be, intends for it to be and has promised to make it into one day.

To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to hunger for heaven on earth.

To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to deeply desire to be the kind of human God created you to be; to have loving, peaceful relationships God designed us to have; and to long for the world to be the kind of place God created it to be.

The good news is that those who truly hunger and thirst for righteousness - God’s righteousness - will be satisfied because God has given us his righteousness in Jesus. Jesus lived the life we don’t, to be the righteousness of God we aren’t. He then died on the cross for all our unrighteousness so that we might be forgiven and reconciled

to God. He rose again leaving our sin in the grave and overcoming death, the result of sin, so that he could ultimately bring about a whole new creation. He has promised to one day make all things new. This work starts in giving us new, forgiven hearts. Then as we submit to him to help us live righteous lives, he fills us with His Spirit to empower us to live in ways that give people a taste of Shalom in this world. As we do this, it creates a hunger and thirst in others for righteousness as well. They want what Jesus is and has done in us. And ultimately, we all want what the future holds - a new heaven and new earth. If you hunger and thirst for this and realize Jesus is what satisfies, you will be satisfied now and fully in the future.

## DISCUSS

1. If righteousness is another way of saying *Shalom* - you and the world as God intends it to be, what, according to the Biblical story does that look like? Remember, you and the world were meant to display what God is like and how God relates to us. So, continue to compare your answers to the nature and activity of God in the world.
2. Jesus said he was the true bread from heaven to satisfy our hunger, and the means by which we might have a never-ending well of spiritual water satisfy our thirst. How might Jesus satisfy your hunger and thirst for righteousness?
3. How is Jesus better than what you tend to go to in order to be satisfied?

For example, I look to my boss to satisfy my hunger for acceptance and significance, but Jesus is a better boss in that he accepts me regardless of how I fall short, granting me God the Father's acceptance through his own performance. He also has raised me up and seated me with himself in the heavenly realms so that my significance is positioned with Christ above all things as a son and heir of God in Christ.

## NURTURE

1. Where do you presently hunger and thirst for righteousness (For you, your relationships or the world to be as it ought to be)?
2. What do you tend to look to in order to satisfy your hunger and how does that work for you?
3. Where might God's Spirit be leading you to hunger and thirst for righteousness now?

## ACT

1. What steps do you believe God is asking you to take in light of what you are learning or hearing?
2. How is God leading you to work this out in your relationships?
3. How might we together provide a preview of the future when all will be like it is supposed to be (i.e. care for the immigrant; make space at our tables for the outsider; care for the fatherless; etc...)?
4. How can we intentionally bring the righteousness of God to those who don't yet know Jesus?