

Elmbrook Discussion Questions

Who Are You Becoming? Matthew 5:6 Seeking Righteousness

Introduction

1. Share your opinion of this quote from C.S. Lewis (*Mere Christianity*):
"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."

Head: *What is the passage saying?*

1. Read Matthew 5:6: *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."*
 - a. What does Jesus mean when he says, "hunger and thirst"?
 - b. What does Jesus mean when he says, "for they will be filled." ?
2. Describe the differences between how "righteousness" is described in the New Testament:
 - a. Righteousness for us:
 - i. Jesus Christ *"has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption"* (1 Cor. 1:30).
 - b. Righteousness in us:
 - i. *"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness..."* 1 Peter 2:24
 - ii. *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* 2 Cor. 5:17
 - c. Righteousness through us:
 - i. *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin a disgrace to any people."* Prov. 14:24
 - ii. *"Righteous people are willing to disadvantage themselves to advantage the community; the wicked are willing to disadvantage the community to advantage themselves."* Bruce Waltke
3. How is "righteousness" different than "self-righteousness"?
4. Putting it all together, how would you re-state the verse using words that a 10 year old child could understand?

Heart: *How does this passage influence my inner being?*

1. How do you cultivate an appetite for righteousness?
2. Consider participating in the following prayer. If so, what next step might God be calling you to do?
"Lord, help us all to accept our own missional call you have placed on our life. God help me to see the places where you are at work and you are prompting me to join. Help me say yes to the opportunities and the work you want to do in my life through it."

Hands: *How do I practically live this out?*

Here are some suggestions, or identify your own practical next step.

1. **Worship:** Perhaps begin by writing out words of worship that God is perfectly righteous. Invite him to cultivate an appetite for righteousness.
2. **Serve:** Find a practical way to live out "righteousness through us" and meet a need for someone else. Perhaps this may be a need for someone with less advantages.
3. **Talk it Out:** Go deeper into relationships, and share with someone else (be specific) how God is calling you to live into righteousness.
4. **Study:** Set your mind on God's Word and read Romans 9:30 - 10:4. What are the different ways that "righteousness" is described? What are the motivations for each description of "righteousness"?

Digging Deeper Study:

1. **Watch:** Learn about the book of Matthew: [Matthew Part1](#) (The Bible Project) on [Rightnow Media](#).
2. **Bible Study:** Take up a study guide on [The Beatitudes](#), or read a helpful [commentary on the Sermon on the Mount](#) (The Bible Speaks Today series).
3. **Read a book:** [Momentum](#): *Pursuing God's Blessings Through the Beatitudes* by Colin Smith, [The Blessing of Humility](#) by Jerry Bridges.