

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

- Matthew 5:2-6 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

Virtue must grow out of a righteous foundation and this theme of righteousness is central to a clear understanding of the beatitudes. In his book, *Follow Me: Discipleship According to Saint Matthew*, Martin Franzmann relates the gift of the first beatitude and the gift of the fourth beatitude by saying that the first is the "dynamic of their existence" and the fourth is the "imperative that shapes their lives."

"God gives His righteousness to men and women who hunger and thirst for it, who see their need for righteousness the supreme need, the need which must be met if they are to live, a need before which the need for things recedes... so that it becomes a footnote on the page whereon is written: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

- Martin Franzmann, *Follow Me: Discipleship According to Saint Matthew* (p. 58)

# Sermon Outline

**Hungry and Thirsty**  
Matthew 5:2-6

*And His Disciples Came to Him*  
Brad Anderson

*Jesus offers deep satisfaction to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...*  
(Matthew 5:2, 6)

## What qualities of life are found in a disciple who hungers and thirsts for righteousness?

A deep awareness of their spiritual poverty... (Matthew 5:3)

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A deep sense of heartache toward their sin... (Matthew 5:4)

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A profound gentleness and the self-control that such gentleness requires... (Matthew 5:5)

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## Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Read Matthew 5:2-6. Which of these beatitudes seem strange to your ear?
- The phrase 'blessed are those' can easily be translated 'happy are the ones', or 'Oh the blessedness of those'. How might verse 6 provide the doorway to the blessings described in verses 3-5? Are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness by necessity the same as those who are poor in spirit, mourn, and meek? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to be poor in spirit? Why would they be the ones who receive the kingdom of heaven? What type of wealth does the kingdom of heaven offer? How would a deep awareness of spiritual poverty look in a disciple?
- What does it mean to mourn and then to be given comfort? Does this include any sort of mourning, or could it refer to a specific mourning? Look at Isaiah 6:1-7, 2 Corinthians 7:10, and James 4:8b-10 to help guide your response. What would it look like to live with a broken heartedness toward sin, both yours and others?
- What does it mean to be meek? Why would the meek be given the earth as an inheritance? Those with ambition seize and grasp for any and everything. What tends to happen to those who live lives of meekness or gentleness? How is self-control a necessary quality to maintain a life of meekness?
- If the beatitudes are written to those who are of God's kingdom and so for the purpose of sanctification (a work of God's free grace that conforms a disciple to Jesus Christ as distinct from justification which is an act of God's free grace) and if Matthew 6:33 is the ultimate good in kingdom living, then the beatitudes set forth a composite of Christian virtue rather than a list of separate character qualities. Where do you find the grace in Matthew 5:2-6 that empowers this kind of transformation?