



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

4. HUNGERING AND THIRSTING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS (MT. 5:6)



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

**A. Meaning of hunger and
thirst?**

'Hunger and thirst' are strong words, meaning an ardent, eager, famishing, all consuming craving, desire and passion of the soul for God and his righteousness.

Psalms often portrays picture of man craving and desiring more of God.

Psalm 84:1-2 (NASB)

1 How lovely are Your dwelling places, O Lord of hosts!

2 My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Psalm 143:6 (NASB)

6 I stretch out my hands to You;
My soul longs for You, as a
parched land. Selah.

Lack of hunger is a sign of spiritual sickness. Many live in a “spiritual intensive care unit” and have no hunger for prayer or the Word. This is abnormal Christianity. Ask the Spirit for help(Matthew 7:7-11)

Matthew 7:7-11 (NASB)

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

9 Or what man is there among
you who, when his son asks for a
loaf, will give him a stone? 10 Or
if he asks for a fish, he will not
give him a snake, will he?

11 If you then, being evil, know
how to give good gifts to your
children, how much more will
your Father who is in heaven
give what is good to those who
ask Him!

Meaning of 'Righteousness'?



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

The word 'righteousness' comes from Greek word "dikaiosyne", meaning rightness, quality of rightness or justice.

It is justice held in love, both
within the man and in the world.
It is the rightness judged by the
standard of God's law.

Being right with God

What are the things, people
hunger and thirst for?



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

People hunger and thirst for

Power

Fame

Money

Beauty

Sexuality

There are, however, those who long for God. These are the people who are not just interested or satisfied by worldly things or pleasures. They are the 'Seekers'.

It is often human tendency to neglect the spiritual needs. But these are the people who yearn after God.

What does it mean to 'hunger and thirst for righteousness'?



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

It is not seeking self-righteousness, but it is the righteousness that comes from God.

It is to depend, not on our own will-power to achieve it but upon God.

In Jesus' time, if there were anybody who would qualify for such earnest passion and zeal for God, that would be the Pharisees and the Scribes (Teachers of the Law). But in the same chapter (Matthew 5:20) Jesus makes a startling statement.

Matthew 5:20 (NASB)

20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

How can one attain a
righteousness, which even
Pharisees failed to achieve?
What kind of righteousness
Jesus is talking about?

Romans 3:21-22 (NASB)

21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

So then, righteousness of God is available through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe in Him. And those who will seek him, will find him and will be filled.

Jesus himself claimed to be the one who will quench the thirst. John 7:37: “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.”

Hunger and thirst are not one time need, they are our daily needs.

Our body need constant nourishment from food and water to function properly. In the same way, our spirit needs daily food too. Many Christians suffer from 'spiritual malnourishment' due to lack of hunger and thirst or lack of feeding to their spiritual needs.

Only God can quench our thirst
and satisfy our hunger for
righteousness.

What do you desire most? Do
you long for more of God in you
life or have you lost that hunger
and thirst?