

Sermon Title: **“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER & THIRST ...”**

Matthew 5:1-12

- Naturally, hungering & thirsting are NOT what we in America see as something to delight in or rejoice over
- Jesus is painting a passionate longing for something which if you DON'T get RIGHT NOW you will DIE
- Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, those who have an insatiable appetite (an immense longing) which is ONLY satisfied in Jesus Christ
- “Hunger” = to crave ardently; to seek with eager desire (Greek word is actually where we get our English phrase – to pine after)
- “Thirst” = to suffer from thirst; to painfully feel one’s need to be quenched
  - It’s the Lord who initiates this hunger & thirst & it’s the Lord who ratchets up our hunger & thirst for Him
  - It’s that tiny tidbit that’s tickled the tip of our tongue that tends to tantalize us to taste even more (ONLY Jesus satisfies that appetite)
- “Satisfied” is also translated “Filled” ... a verb, which is used of animals in the sense of “Feed or Fatten” it means “to be Satisfied Fully”
  - God DOESN'T give table scraps or nasty leftovers to people, who desire after God’s righteousness
  - These are people with a persistent longing for more, but that longing is NOT something they are capable of meeting & addressing in their own personal strength
- This type of righteousness, which comes from God, flew in the face of the Pharisees & Scribes of Jesus’ day
- “Heard” = to perceive by ear; to give ear to a teacher or teaching
  - The emphasis is on the WAY in which the Truth was communicated (through the instruction of the Teacher)