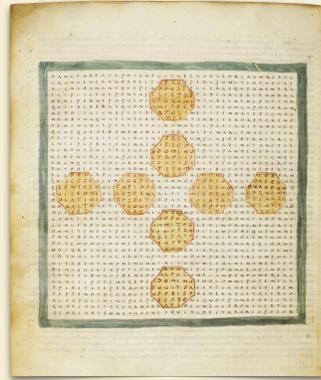


Blessed

Matthew 5:1-12 & Luke 6:17-26

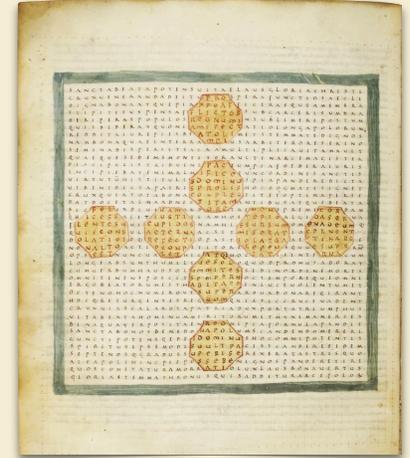


A Spring Sermon Series on the Beatitudes

Seek First

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for *righteousness and justice*, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6; Luke 6:21, 25a).

May 25, 2025
Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church



Blessed are the Hungry

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6, NIV).

“Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied....
Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry” (Luke 6:24-25, NIV).

What Should We Hunger & Thirst for?

Both verbs are in the Greek present tense, which suggests the hunger and thirst are *continual* — *almost unquenchable*:

- “Blessed are those who *continually and earnestly* hunger and thirst...” (Matthew 5:6; Luke 6:21).

What Should We Hunger & Thirst for?

"Blessed are those who continually and earnestly hunger for *dikaiosyne*, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

dikaiosyne (δικαιοσύνη)



"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for *righteousness*, for they will be filled" (NIV, NRSV).

"God blesses those who hunger and thirst for *justice*, for they will be satisfied" (NLT).

Righteousness or Justice?

The Greek words built on the root *dikai-* can variously be translated by righteousness, justice, justification, piety, etc.

- *dikaiosyne* (δικαιοσύνη) noun – fair and equitable dealing or behaviour, *justice, equitableness, fairness, uprightness*; the gift of the attribute of righteousness, *justification, righteousness* (86x).
- *dikaios* (δικαιος) adj. – *right, just, righteous, righteousness* (74x).
- *dikaioo* (δικαιωω) verb – *show justice, make righteous* (36x).

Righteousness or Justice?

Gift	Behaviour
Right standing before God	Covenant faithfulness
God's grace and salvation	Conformity to God's will
Internal & Individualistic	External & Relational
More characteristic of Paul	More characteristic of Jesus

Righteousness or Justice?

Benno Przybylski has shown that "righteousness" in Matthew always means practical righteousness or an individual's conduct of righteous life lived in relationship with others.

- "For I tell you that unless your righteousness/justice surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:20).

Righteousness or Justice?

- “Be careful not to practice your righteousness/justice in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Matt 6:1).
- “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness/justice [“live righteously” NLT], and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matt 6:33).

Righteousness & Justice?

Really a “both/and.”

- While Jesus is clearly talking about *the just and righteous behaviour of the blessed*, the assumption is that their behaviour flows out of their reconciled relationship with God.
- Not salvation by works, but that *authentic saving faith* will produce *authentic works of justice & righteousness* (Matt 5:16).

Righteousness & Justice

- ***A longing for God's Justice:*** behaviour that accords to God's nature, will, and coming kingdom.
- ***A longing for God's Righteousness:*** deep desire for God's righteousness to be made manifest not only in the world, but also in one's own heart.

The Promise: Satisfaction

Doesn't say they will attain righteousness or justice, only that they will “be filled.”

- ***chortazo*** (χορταζω) – to fill with food, *feed, filled to overflowing, sated*; to experience inward satisfaction, *be satisfied*.
- The metaphor expresses absolute and utter satisfaction: they will find a kingdom characterized by justice, righteousness, mercy, peace, holiness, and love.

The Promise: Satisfaction

"We know that the Sovereign of the universe wills an end to hunger, injustice, and oppression. The resurrection of Jesus is our guarantee that, in spite of the massive evil that sometimes almost overwhelms us, the final victory will surely come. Secure on that solid rock, we will plunge into this unjust world, changing now all we can and knowing that the risen King will complete the victory at his glorious return" (Ronald Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, 224).

Invitation

What do you Hunger and Thirst for?

- Are you hungering and thirsting for God's righteousness and justice to be realized in your own life and in your world?