

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, January 17, 2021**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 20. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness – Matthew 5:6**

**Pastor Phillip M Way**

Review – see pg 2

Intro: We've seen our helplessness. Now we come to the remedy. Here we find God's solution to our most urgent need, the need to be right with Him.

- I. Defining Terms – Matt. 5:6
  - A. Blessed – to be a recipient of divine favor, grace, as evidenced by the desire to be right with God
  - B. Hunger – to be hungry, strong desire, to want very much, longing for more
  - C. Thirst – to be thirsty, to suffer from thirst, to long for something intensely – I will die without it
  - D. Righteousness – Matt. 5:10; 6:33 – “to be right with God and men” – CHS
  - E. Filled – satisfied, filled up, fulfilled
  - F. Definition – 1 John 1:5-7 – *see MLJ “the world is seeking for happiness”*
    1. “To be free from self in all its horrible manifestations, in all its forms. To be emancipated from all self-concern”, except for our ultimate need, to be right with God. - MLJ
    2. The longing to be holy – CHS
    3. “To desire it (being right with God) enough to abandon all hope of achieving salvation by our own efforts, and to cling instead to the efforts made for us by Him.” – JMB
- II. Right vs. Righteous – Luke 18:9-14
  - A. Right – like the Pharisees – Matt. 5:20; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:14, 24 (debate/discipleship)
  - B. Righteous – like the justified tax collector – *see MLJ “better test”*
    1. Actual, not only Imputed – Micah 6:8
    2. Deeds – Matt. 6:1, 5, 16 (give, pray, fast)
    3. Attitude toward sin – that which separates us from God – Rom. 6:12-14, 18
      - a. Desire to be free from the presence of sin
      - b. Desire to be free from the power of sin
      - c. Desire to be free from the pull (desire) of sin
- III. Requirements for Righteousness
  - A. Faith – Rom. 4:5-6; 10:9-10
  - B. Willingness
    1. Present – Rom. 6:13, 16, 19
    2. Pursue – 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22
    3. Practice – 1 John 2:29; 3:7
  - C. Fruit – 2 Cor. 9:10; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:8-10; Phil. 1:9-11
  - D. Teachability – 2 Tim. 3:16
  - E. Chastisement – Heb. 12:11
- IV. Satisfied – filled up, fulfilled – John 4:10, 13-14; 6:35
  - A. Content – Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6; Psalm 23:1-6
  - B. Convinced – Rom. 4:20-21
  - C. Converted – Luke 15:11-24
- V. Covered and Clothed
  - A. Put Off/Put On – Eph. 4:24 – a new nature
  - B. Breastplate of Righteousness – Gal. 6:14 – armor for battle
  - C. Love – Rev. 19:8 – obedience, purified
  - D. Christ – Isa. 59:17; 61:10-11; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 1:11; 3:8-10; Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27

## Review:

Blessed – a recipient of divine favor, grace. Because you have been blessed (shown grace), you will want to do and be able to do now what previously you did not want to do and could not do on your own. The first three of the “Be-attitudes” have demonstrated our helplessness. 1) To be poor in spirit is to recognize our hopelessness and helplessness before God apart from His grace. 2) To mourn for sin leads us in repentance to the comfort promised in the gospel, our only lasting and true hope. And 3) We move from mourning over sin (looking at self) to a position to see how others look at us – what is the outward fruit of our regeneration? It must be a meek and gentle spirit, to live a quiet and peaceable life trusting and submitted to God. It is leaving everything – ourselves, our lives, our rights, our cause, our whole future – in the hands of God. Meekness is also seen as controlled, righteous anger - “Blessed is the man who is always angry at the right time, and never angry at the wrong time.” – William Barclay

## Quotes

MLJ – “The world is seeking for happiness. That is the meaning of its pleasure mania, that is the meaning of everything men and women do, not only in their work but still more in their pleasures. They are trying to find happiness. But the great tragedy of the world is that, though it gives itself to seek for happiness, it never seems to be able to find it. The present state of the world reminds us of that very forcibly. What is the matter? We are not to hunger and thirst after blessedness; we are not to hunger and thirst after happiness. But that is what most people are doing. We put happiness and blessedness as the one thing that we desire, and thus we always miss it; it eludes us. According to the Scriptures happiness is never something that should be sought directly; it is always something that results from seeking something else. We are not meant to hunger and thirst after experiences; we are not meant to hunger and thirst after blessedness. If we want to be truly happy and blessed, we must hunger and thirst after righteousness.” – Studies on the Sermon on the Mount, pg. 63-64

MLJ – “better test”

“I do not know of a better test that anyone can apply in the whole matter of the Christian profession than a verse like this.” Do you want to be right with God? – Martyn Lloyd-Jones

## **Cross References**

### **Matthew 5:10**

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **Matthew 6:33**

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

### **1 John 1:5-7**

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

### **Luke 18:9-14**

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

### **Matthew 5:20**

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **1 Timothy 6:3-5**

3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

### **2 Timothy 2:14**

14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

### **2 Timothy 2:24**

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

**Micah 6:8**

8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Matthew 6:1**

6 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

**Matthew 6:5**

5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

**Matthew 6:16**

16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

**Romans 6:12-14**

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

**Romans 6:18**

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

**Romans 4:5-6**

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

**Romans 10:9-10**

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Romans 6:13**

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

### **Romans 6:16**

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

### **Romans 6:19**

19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

### **1 Timothy 6:11**

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

### **2 Timothy 2:22**

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

### **1 John 2:29**

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

### **1 John 3:7**

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

### **2 Corinthians 9:10**

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

### **Ephesians 5:8-10**

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

### **Philippians 1:9-11**

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

## **2 Timothy 3:16**

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

## **Hebrews 12:11**

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

## **John 4:10**

10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

## **John 4:13-14**

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

## **John 6:35**

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

## **Philippians 4:11**

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

## **1 Timothy 6:6**

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

## **Psalms 23**

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

## **Romans 4:20-21**

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

### **Luke 15:11-24**

11 Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” ’ 20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

### **Ephesians 4:24**

24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

### **Galatians 6:14**

14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

### **Revelation 19:8**

8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

### **Isaiah 59:17**

17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

### **Isaiah 61:10-11**

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

### **1 Corinthians 1:30**

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

**Philippians 1:11**

11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**Philippians 3:8-10**

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

**Romans 13:14**

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

**Galatians 3:27**

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

New King James Version (NKJV)

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.