“The King’s Blessed People: Satisfied in Christ”

Matthew 5:1-12

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 8/14/22)

Have you come hungry for God today?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to the great needs of our world in 2022. All people need to be made right **with** God. All people need to be made right **by** God. Lord, fill our hearts with contentment with you. Let us truly understand what it means to be part of this Kingdom of Heaven.

Real hunger and thirst are foreign to us. Sure, we get hungry between meals. We get thirsty, so we turn on the tap. But the people of Bible times often lived on the border of starvation. Their water had to be planned for each day. Food and water were an all-consuming preoccupation. THAT is how God wants us to hunger and thirst for righteousness. He is saying, “Blessed are those who cannot live without My righteousness.” But even though man should find his satisfaction in God alone, he seems to look for it everywhere else. Why? It’s called SIN, disordered desire. (Q3) One more thing: don’t think that you can proclaim the righteousness of God while living an unrighteous life. That, too, is a false gospel. Do you really desire to change? Do you CRAVE righteousness? God’s people live with a strong desire to do what is right, to live in the realm of our King’s approval. Listen carefully to the Beatitudes, where Jesus explains His nature, and the nature of His children.

For this study, Pastor Steve explained 3 aspects of righteousness:

1. Positional righteousness, being made right **by** God (also called justification)
2. Personal (or practical) righteousness, being made right **with** God (also called the process of sanctification) This is living rightly, by His power. This is living in conformity to his ways. This is living within His beneficent boundaries.
3. Public (or social) righteousness. God’s people care about what is right and wrong in our world. We want to see communities where God and His way are exalted. We grieve when we see evil prevail. (Q4)

Have you been made right by God through faith in Jesus Christ? Blessedness is the fruit of knowing Him and belonging to Him. God wants you to be holy. He wants you to pursue Him, not happiness. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, “…Whenever you put happiness before righteousness, you will be doomed to misery. That is the great message of the Bible from beginning to end.” Sin disrupts your relationship with God. Sin separates you from God (just ask Adam and Eve!) Man tries to hide his unrighteousness with denial, indifference, religion, rules, rituals, blaming others, and more. Sin closes the gate of access to God. How will that gate be opened? THE GOSPEL that you and I are meant to bring to the world. Jesus gave His life for His people, opening that gate. The veil that separated sinful man from God has been torn in two! Hallelujah! (Ps. 118:19-20) Christ is the gate through which the sinner must go through (Matt. 7:13-14; John 6:35). As we trust in Christ alone, God looks upon us as if we had never sinned! Wow! Can you say, “He is my righteousness?”

We are being made progressively more and more like Jesus. Do you long for His righteousness to grow in you? He’s not going to leave you the way He found you! The happiest life God has for His people is the life of faith and obedience to His will. (Deut. 5:33) You cannot be content when you are living outside of God’s boundaries. That’s the story of the prodigal son. Folks, we are not zapped by holiness. We should be growing daily in this battle with sin. (Q5) And we should look forward to that final victory! (1John 3:2-3)

Finally, let’s look at public (social) righteousness. We grieve when things in the world are going wrong. We applaud godly court decisions. We condemn evil manifesting itself in the public square (Is. 5:20-21) God’s Kingdom is now AND it is yet to come: there is a day coming when we will be free from even the presence of sin. Righteousness will prevail on the earth. A Christian is made right **with** God, he is made right **by** God, and he lives toward an eternal Kingdom of righteousness. Lord, spare us from complacency and apathy. We hunger and thirst for righteousness, and live hopefully and expectantly in and for Your Kingdom. Amen.

**QUESTIONS**:

1. In terms of daily living, what does it look like to crave righteousness?
2. In what ways are you “filled” as one who hungers for righteousness?
3. Where does man look to find satisfaction apart from God?
4. What are some practical ways we can be salt and light in our communities without being consumed by the negative aspects of politics?
5. What are some practical steps for growing in holiness (right living) without becoming legalistic?

“Trust and Obey” (Sammis)

When we walk with the Lord

In the light of His Word,

What a glory He sheds on our way!

While we do His good will;

He abides with us still,

And with all who will trust and obey.

(Refrain)

But we never can prove

The delights of His love

Until all on the altar we lay;

For the favor He shows,

And the joy He bestows,

Are for them who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey,

For there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus,

But to trust and obey.