

Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness in Christ

May 20, 2026

Summary

Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness

Scripture References

Primary text

- Matthew 5:6
- 1 Corinthians 1:18

Other references

- John 3
- John 4
- John 7
- John 1:1
- John 1:14
- Ephesians 2:1-3
- Matthew 28
- Deuteronomy 6

Overview

Jesus declares that real blessing belongs to those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness.” The teacher walked the group through what that longing really is, why it is essential for every Kingdom citizen, and how God promises continuing satisfaction without ever extinguishing desire. Only Christ—the Bread of life and the living Water—can meet this need, and He does so through His Word, prayer, and the fellowship of the church.

Main Points

1. A Skit That Frames the Issue

- *Illustration:* A playful back-and-forth with “Sydney” and a pile of cookies, chips, and Dr Pepper showed how easily we confuse bodily cravings with the spiritual craving Jesus names.

- The skit set up the night's theme: God redirects our appetites from junk food satisfaction to the righteousness provided in Christ.

2. Hunger & Thirst: A Universal Condition

- Everyone, rich or poor, knows the physical weakness and single-mindedness that come with real hunger or thirst.
- Jesus elevates that uncomfortable state to something “blessed,” forcing listeners to ask, “What should I really be starving for?”
- Physical hunger is cyclical and never finally resolved; it points to a deeper, ongoing spiritual need.

3. Where the Beatitudes Have Led So Far

- Poverty of spirit → mourning over sin → meek submission → hunger and thirst for what we now know we lack.
- Each step is a Spirit-worked descent of self and ascent toward Christ. To the watching world (1 Corinthians 1:18) that process looks foolish.

4. Why Righteousness?

- “Righteousness” can also be rendered “justice.” Kingdom citizens long for both:
 - To stand right before God (judicial need).
 - To see God's just character displayed in their own lives.
- Apart from new birth we hunger only for self-promotion—house, car, applause, even “good deeds” that make us look noble.
- Regenerated hearts crave the convicting, pruning work of the Spirit that conforms us to Christ's image.

5. The Promise: “They Shall Be Satisfied”

- Satisfaction is both “already and not yet.” God meets each stage of growth with exactly enough grace for that stage, even as appetite for more of Christ increases.
- Unlike quenching a fire, God never snuffs out desire; He keeps feeding it with Himself.
- *Illustration:* Just as a child needs more food while growing, believers require greater measures of grace as sanctification deepens.

6. God's Ordinary Means of Feeding His People

- Word: Scripture reveals the Bread of life and the Water that ends ultimate thirst (John 1; John 4; John 7).
- Prayer: Ongoing, dependent conversation that asks for and receives daily bread.

- Church: Koinonia life where believers sharpen, encourage, and hold one another accountable.

7. Church Life & Misplaced Confidence

- Discussion highlighted the temptation to replace gospel ministry with programs (youth events, VBS, sports alternatives).
- Programs are helpful tools, but Christ—not activities—must remain the sufficient center.
- Genuine growth starts in the home (Deuteronomy 6) and spreads through disciples making disciples “as you are going” (Matthew 28).

Key Truths

- True blessing is found in craving what only God can supply.
- Righteousness involves both right standing with God and a life that loves His justice.
- Satisfaction in Christ is continuous; every fresh filling produces deeper longing.
- God feeds His people through Scripture, prayer, and gospel-shaped fellowship.
- Church ministries are servants, not substitutes, for the gospel's transforming power.

Response

- Examine your appetites; repent where they run after lesser things.
- Seek daily intake of Scripture and prayer, trusting these ordinary means to nourish you.
- Engage your church family beyond weekend services—ask, listen, encourage, and hold others accountable.
- Parents: put discipleship at the center of home life; don't outsource it.
- Share Christ in everyday settings, showing neighbors the only Bread and Water that satisfy.

Closing

The session ended with intercession for church members in sickness, gratitude for new life in a family, and a plea that God keep this congregation a bright, gospel-centered “city on a hill.” The final note: God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, will continue to satisfy every earnest seeker with Himself until the day hunger gives way to fullness in His presence.

Prayer

The teacher thanked God for being the ultimate satisfaction, asked that the children—and all present—would desire Him above every earthly pleasure, and prayed for healing, comfort, bold gospel witness, and the ongoing vitality of the church.