

Last week we discussed Chrysostom (347-407) archbishop in Turkey and “the meek will inherit the earth” and how the word “meek” does not mean what we think it does. Have you thought of this?

God said Moses was the most humble person on earth. That is why He chose to use him to free His people. Have you thought of this?

Matthew 5:6 – Jesus said: **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”**

The Greek words in Matthew 5:6 are *makarioi*, *peinōntes*, *dipsōntes*, *dikaiosynēn*, and *chortasthēsontai*. They describe the state of being blessed for a spiritual craving that will be deeply satisfied.

The full verse in Greek is: **“Makarioi hoi peinōntes kai dipsōntes tēn dikaiosynēn, hoti autoi chortasthēsontai.”**

Here is a breakdown of the key terms and their meanings:

- **μακάριοι (makarioi)**: "Blessed" or "happy". This is more than a simple feeling of happiness; it refers to a deep state of spiritual well-being or fortunate joy, often as a result of God's favor.
- **πεινῶντες (peinōntes)**: "Hungering". This is the verb "to hunger," used metaphorically to mean a strong, intense desire or craving.
- **διψῶντες (dipsōntes)**: "Thirsting". Like "hungering," this word is used to describe a powerful spiritual longing or craving. Using both "hunger" and "thirst" together is a common literary device to emphasize the intensity of the desire.
- **δικαιοσύνην (dikaiosynēn)**: "Righteousness". This word can mean both personal rectitude or "rightness" before God, and the broader concept of justice for all.
 - **Personal Righteousness**: A longing for personal virtue and purity that aligns with God's will.
 - **Societal Justice**: A yearning to see justice prevail in the world, with wrongs being made right, as is promised in God's coming kingdom.
- **χορτασθήσονται (chortasthēsontai)**: "They shall be filled" or "satisfied". This word is derived from a term used for fattening cattle and implies being completely and abundantly satisfied. The meaning is a complete fulfillment of the intense spiritual hunger and thirst.

William Barclay (1907 – 1978) was a Scottish author, radio and television presenter, Church of Scotland minister, and Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at the University of Glasgow. He wrote a popular set of Bible commentaries on the New Testament that sold 1.5 million copies. 1907 – 1978) was a Scottish author, radio and television presenter, Church of Scotland minister, and Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at the University of Glasgow.

Barclay says food and water were harder to come by in the days of Jesus. “What Jesus is saying here is: “Blessed is the one who longs for righteousness as a starving man longs for food, and as the man perishing of thirst longs for water.” ...He is saying: “Do you desire righteousness with that intensity of desire with which a starving person desires food, and the one parched with thirst desires water?” How strong do you feel you long for righteousness?

Does your idea of “righteousness” align with God’s meaning?

What are some examples of justice in this world that may not align with God’s meaning of justice?

He goes on to say the main cause of failure in the Christian life is simply that we do not sufficiently desire to be a Christian.

Have you come across those who profess to be Christian but are merely going through the motion of desire? Is that you?

Luke 6:25 – Jesus says: **“Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.”**

Barclay says this means woe unto you who are satisfied, who are content with things as they are, who have no passionate desire for that which you have not got. You may live comfortably enough just now, but the day comes when you will discover that you have somehow missed the greatest things of all.

Can you think of those around you that feel they are well fed? What is the meaning of being “well fed”?

Many seek righteousness but they pick and choose their righteousness. For example, they may be against adultery, swearing, dishonesty, lust, to name a few but their hearts may be cold. Have you seen this trait in some people?

On the opposite spectrum, there are those who live vicariously without righteousness, but their hearts are warm, and they would do anything for anybody. Can you think of those you know that are like this?

“Each of them has a part of goodness, but not the whole of it; each has fragmentary, but not total goodness. The Christian goodness is a complete goodness in which virtue and love join hands.”

When the word “filled” was used, it meant to stuff a person full to the point of complete satiety (complete fullness). “If a person hungers and thirsts for that righteousness which God alone can give, God will not send him empty away, but God will fill him, until his longings are achieved, and his soul is satisfied.” Go and seek righteousness, the true righteousness of God.