

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

EPISODE 5 - BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

THE BEATITUDES SERIES (MATTHEW 5:1-12)

- Jesus was traveling near the Sea of Galilee. There were many people following Him. So, Jesus went up on a mountainside and gathered His core disciples around Him. The crowd found places around the mountainside, to hear what He was going to teach His disciples.
- Jesus began teaching His disciples what is known as the Beatitudes. The word “beatitude” means “blessedness.” There are eight blessings that Jesus taught during the Sermon on the Mount.
- This passage teaches us to look at our hearts and the attitudes God wants us to have toward ourselves, our sin, the Lord, and the world.
- Each statement starts with the word “Blessed” which means we are filled with a joy and peace that cannot be shaken. This kind of joy and peace comes as we put our trust in God.
- Trusting God changes our hearts and attitudes, and we find the blessing and future reward Jesus spoke about.
- The Beatitudes set the tone for the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. These blessed statements show the goodness of God, and that we find our blessing in God alone.
- ***Fourth Beatitude: “Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right. They will be filled.” (Matt. 5:6)***



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- Just like when we are physically hungry and thirsty, we need to nourish our bodies with food and water, as believers we need to have a spiritual hunger and thirst for God.
- Having a longing for God leads us to read His Word, pray daily, and surround ourselves with other believers. Only God can satisfy this spiritual hunger, and when we seek after Him, He will fill us with His love and righteousness.
- One example of someone in the Bible who was spiritually hungry and thirsty was the Ethiopian man in **Acts 8:26-40**.
- There was a follower of Jesus named Philip. He was one of seven men chosen by the disciples to make sure there was enough food for the growing number of believers, especially widows. But after another believer named Stephen was stoned, the disciples left Jerusalem. Philip went to Samaria to do ministry work.
- One day, an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. “Go south to the desert road,” he said. “It’s the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”
- So Philip started out. On his way he met an Ethiopian official. The man had an important position in charge of all the wealth of the queen of Ethiopia. This official had gone to Jerusalem to worship.
- On his way home the Ethiopian was sitting in his chariot. He was reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Holy Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot. Stay near it.”
- This Ethiopian man would not have been Jewish, but he was clearly interested in learning about God.
- Philip ran up to the chariot. He heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you’re reading?” Philip asked.
- “How can I?” he said. “I need someone to explain it to me.” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

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- Two things are happening in this story. One is the Ethiopian man was eager to know more about God and the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit had opened his heart to hearing the Good News. The second thing is Philip was obedient to the Holy Spirit by making himself available to share the Good News with the Ethiopian man.
- The Ethiopian was spiritually hungry and thirsty, and Philip was ready to share about the One who could satisfy his longing: Jesus Christ!
- Here is the part of Scripture the Ethiopian was reading. It says, “He was led like a sheep to be killed. Just as lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off, He did not open His mouth. When He was treated badly, He was refused a fair trial. Who can say anything about His children? His life was cut off from the earth.” **(Isaiah 53:7,8)**
- The official said to Philip, “Tell me, please. Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?” Then Philip began with that same part of Scripture. He told him the Good News about what Jesus has done for us.
- Because of Philip’s obedience to the Holy Spirit’s prompting, the Ethiopian now knew about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. This was more than curiosity; he felt a hunger and thirst in his heart that only Jesus can satisfy.
- As they traveled along the road, they came to some water. The Ethiopian said, “Look! Here is water! What can stop me from being baptized?”
- He gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water. Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The Ethiopian did not see him again. He went on his way full of joy.
- Now that the Ethiopian knew about Jesus’ love and saving grace, he was overjoyed! He had been baptized and brought into God’s family. His spiritual hunger and thirst had been filled by Jesus.
- The fourth Beatitude teaches us that even as believers we should always have a longing for God. Having an eagerness to grow closer to God leads us to read His Word, pray daily, and surround ourselves with other believers.

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- Only God can satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst, and when we seek after Him, He will fill us with His love and righteousness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the Beatitudes?

- The Beatitudes are blessed statements that Jesus taught His disciples, to show the goodness of God and that we find our blessing in God alone.

2. What is the fourth Beatitude, and what does it mean?

- The fourth Beatitude is, “Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right. They will be filled.” It means we need to have a spiritual hunger and thirst for knowing God, who fills us with His love and righteousness through His Word, prayer, and Christian community.

3. What was the Ethiopian man doing when Philip saw him?

- He was sitting in his chariot reading from the prophet Isaiah.

4. What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do?

- He told Philip to stay near the chariot.

5. How did the Ethiopian man react to Philip sharing the Good News?

- He wanted to be baptized. Philip baptized him, and then was suddenly taken away by the Spirit of the Lord. The Ethiopian went on his way full of joy.

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PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. How can you live out the fourth Beatitude in your own life?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a longing to grow closer to God. Look to surround yourself with Christian community to help you grow in faith. Study God's Word, pray daily, go to church and Friendship group, be in Christian community, and tell others about Jesus.

2. How can you encourage someone else with the Beatitudes?

- Pray with them and encourage them to read God's Word. Invite them to church or to Friendship group. Share how much you love God, and the blessings He has given you in your life.

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