

## Character/Image: "I am Righteous" - Pastor Riley Berthaudin

Sermon Notes: November 3, 2024

Text: Matthew 5:6

Introduction: "You are what you eat!" or so they say. Our appetites determine our diet, and our diet determines our health. What we consume affects our our health, mentally and physically. As we think about our spiritual health, our appetites work just the same. What we consume affects our righteousness, but in wanting to be more like Jesus, how do we consume righteousness?

### 1) WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Righteousness: Matthew 5:6, 10, 20, 6:1, 33

*"Righteousness is a truly Christian lifestyle that changes us from the inside out so that we no longer seek the praise of men, but causes us to seek God's approval above everything else."*

### 2) HUNGER AND THIRST?

If we are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, nothing else will satisfy.

A) We need to WANT righteousness - Psalm 42

B) We need to TAKE ACTION - John 6:35

- "O God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in you."  
St. Augustine

C) We need to KEEP COMING BACK -

- Hunger/Thirst: Grk, present participles which imply continuous action (lifestyle)

### 3) THEY WILL BE FILLED!

- Filled: Compared to cattle that have been fattened
- Matthew 7:7-11 - ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened...
- We are as close to God as we want to be.
- It's not actually about "attaining" righteousness, it is about pursuing and attaining Jesus - HE is the one who gives true righteousness. He has made himself accessible and available to us.
- True righteousness is inaccessible without Jesus, it only comes with Him! 2 Cor 5:21

*"Righteousness is a God-centered attribute;  
no man can attain it by his own efforts apart from His ordinance."*



# Life Group Discussion

## Warm-Up:

If you could instantly become an expert in any skill, what would it be?

## Study & Discussion:

Read Matthew 5:6, 10, 20, 6:1, 33

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) Christianity has often been compared to a list of rules, do's & don'ts. Is righteousness dependent on the activities you do or don't do or is it something different? How does righteousness affect the things you do or don't do?

3.) Read the following quote and discuss how righteousness plays into each of the highlighted sections:

*"Righteousness is a truly Christian lifestyle that changes us from the inside out so that we no longer seek the praise of men, but causes us to seek God's approval above everything else."*

Read Psalm 42:1,2 & Psalm 63:1, John 6:35

4) Pastor Riley said "You are as close to God and as filled as you want to be." What do you think about this statement, do you agree or disagree? How is our relationship with Jesus dependant on our hunger and thirst for him? How does Matthew 7:7-11 inform this quote?

5) True righteousness is only available through Jesus and our pursuit of him, not living up to a list of do's and don'ts. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and thank Jesus for what he has given you.

## PRAYER:

