

SERIES – STEPS TO THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE  
Steps 4 & 5 – Hunger, Thirst, and Mercy, 3/19/23  
Matthew 5:6-7 & Luke 6:21, 25

- I. Jesus' Intent with the Beatitudes
  - To give us a way to walk through life that leads us to becoming filled with his Spirit
  - To show us a path to holiness, righteousness, a better us
  - To give us a mirror in which we can see certain things about ourselves that we need to work on spiritually
- II. Step Four – Hungering and Thirsting
  - What did Jesus mean?
    - There's both a spiritual and a physical way to interpret this Beatitude
      - Jesus used everyday experiences to teach people spiritual truths
      - Jesus didn't separate life into the physical and the spiritual – he understood what it means to live an amphibious life with one foot in both worlds
      - Both those that are physically hungry and thirsty, as well as those who hunger and thirst to be righteous will be blessed
    - The proper way to hunger and thirst for righteousness
      - Do you desire to be more like Jesus?
      - Is wanting to be as righteous as possible something you really want?
      - Righteousness means doing what is right and is a synonym for standing up for justice
- III. Step Five – Mercy
  - What did Jesus mean?
    - The Greek word for mercy means:
      - It is not simply sympathy, feeling sorry for someone, or feeling pity for someone

- It is making a deliberate effort to try and see things from another person's point of view instead of judging them.
  - It's like literally getting into their skin and seeing things through their eyes to understand them – empathizing with them
  - The proper way to be merciful
    - We are to be merciful to everyone
    - Withhold judging someone; seek to truly understand why they do and say the things they do
    - Understanding someone leads to less conflict
- IV. Taking Steps Four & Five during Lent
    - Reflect on what these Beatitudes mean for your life
    - Pray to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and to be merciful
    - Allow Jesus' words to shape the person you are

*God literally got into the skin of a human being, and because of that he is able to show mercy to us. We ought to be merciful to others.*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 5:6-7 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Luke 6:21, 25 - Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Woe to you who are full now for you will be hungry.

Micah 6:8 - God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?

James 2:12-13 - So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.