

SERMON STUDY NOTES

11th August 2019
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

1. There's a progression within the beatitudes. The first three are to do with our inner thoughts emotions and character. Would you say that you are humble, compassionate and meek (yielded fully to God?) Which of these character traits do you struggle with the most?
2. As we develop Godly character, our faith and work for the Lord increases. 2 Cor 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* Share with the group some of the ways your character and actions have changed since you became a believer in Jesus Christ.
3. Matt 5:6. *Blessed are those who hunger thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.* People feel that this means that we all have to be super spiritual, but the Greek word for *righteousness* is also the word used for *justice*. What is the difference between the words “righteousness” and “justice”?
4. Righteousness can be defined as “rightness” or “*doing what is right in sight of the Lord*”. Would you say that you are a righteous person? In what are the areas that you struggle?

5. Brian Zahnd interprets this beatitude like this: *Blessed are those who ache for the world to be made right, for them the government of God is a dream come true.*” What aspects of the world do you feel need to be changed most urgently into God’s pattern?
6. The people who feel the most threatened by the Beatitudes are those for whom the present arrangement of the world is most advantageous. Citizens of a modern-day rich and powerful nations generally like the way the world is organised. Discuss.
7. Are you concerned about the brokenness and inherent injustice of our world? As we look at the world on a global scale, everything is far from okay: 80% of the world lives on less than US\$10 per day. Seventeen thousand children die from hunger every day. Nations spend billions every day on their security while orphans die & widows weep. Discuss.
8. We can be praying *“Thy government come, thy policy be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”* rather than perpetuating the lie that *“it has to be this way.”* What is our church doing to help the poor and needy in our town? What more could we be doing?
Matt 25:41-46
9. Those who submit their gifts, abilities, and strength to the Lord become His own royal horse that He chooses to ride into battle and to advance His Kingdom. Are you a meek obedient horse?
10. Jesus said the greatest among us is the servant of all. We find Jesus among the poor, needy, downtrodden, and destitute. Kingdom of God greatness is not found in elevating ourselves, but in doing something for someone else. Justice is working for the good of all, working to set things right in society. Matt 25:41-45. Pray that we will be faithful and obedient in these areas.