

THE FORGOTTEN JESUS PODCAST

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Season 7, Episode 11

Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Matthew 5:6; Romans 3:21-26; Philippians 3:9; Matthew 6

Opening Thought

Everyone knows what it feels like to be hungry or thirsty. It's a craving that demands to be satisfied. Jesus takes this physical reality and applies it spiritually: *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."* This Beatitude challenges us to crave God's righteousness—both as a gift received in salvation and as a lifestyle practiced daily.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus used hunger and thirst as the image for our pursuit of righteousness?
2. What stood out to you from Pastor Robby's explanation of righteousness in this episode?

3. How do Matthew 5:20 and Matthew 6:33 deepen our understanding of Jesus' call to righteousness?
 4. What's the difference between *positional righteousness* (justification) and *practical righteousness* (living it out)?
 5. How does Romans 3:21-26 describe the "great exchange" that happens at salvation?
 6. Why was Jesus so critical of the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees?
 7. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that our righteousness must surpass theirs?
 8. How does Matthew 6:1 challenge us to check our motives behind righteous acts?
 9. Why do you think Jesus highlighted prayer, fasting, and giving as central expressions of practiced righteousness?
 10. How does persecution relate to righteousness according to Matthew 5:10?
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Application Questions (*Living It Out*):

1. What do you find yourself hungering and thirsting for most in life—comfort, success, approval, or God's righteousness?
2. How does the truth that righteousness is a *gift* from God change the way you see your relationship with Him?
3. Where in your life do you struggle most with *practicing* righteousness (prayer, generosity, integrity, compassion, etc.)?
4. What motives usually drive your acts of service or devotion? Recognition? Duty? Love for God?
5. How might fasting, praying, or giving look different if your only audience was God?
6. What would it look like for you to seek God's kingdom and righteousness first this week (Matthew 6:33)?

7. Have you ever faced opposition or ridicule for living out your faith? How does Matthew 5:10 encourage you?
 8. What practices help you stir up a deeper hunger for God (Scripture, worship, solitude, fellowship, etc.)?
 9. Where do you see a disconnect in your life between *orthodoxy* (right belief) and *orthopraxy* (right practice)?
 10. What is one step you can take this week to increase your appetite for God and His righteousness?
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Prayer Prompt

Pray that God would increase your hunger and thirst for Him above all else. Ask Him to fill you with His righteousness—both the gift of justification in Christ and the daily grace to live rightly before Him. Pray for courage to live out your faith authentically, even when it costs you, and for a heart that longs for more of God's presence and power.

Additional Resources for Going Deeper:

- **Scripture Memory**
 - Matthew 5:6, Matthew 6:33, Romans 3:21-26, Philippians 3:9
- **Books & Commentaries**
 - *The Forgotten Jesus* by Robby Gallaty
 - *The Sermon on the Mount* by D.A. Carson
 - *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard (focuses on kingdom living and righteousness)
- **Passages for Further Study**
 - Isaiah 55:1-2 – “Come, all you who are thirsty...”

- John 6:35 – Jesus as the Bread of Life
- Luke 6:21, 25 – the blessings and woes of hunger and fullness
- James 2:14-26 – faith and works together