

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: What was your last argument about?

OVERVIEW: In the beatitudes Jesus teaches about the secret to happiness. Thus far we have learned that happiness is not found in the things of this world, but in a right relationship with God. In the fourth beatitude we learn that your happiness is affected by your desires. If your deepest longings are for the right things then you will find happiness; but if your deepest longings are for the wrong things then happiness will elude you. In this discussion we will go deeper with what should be our deepest desire — righteousness.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What are your deepest desires?
3. Do you desire to be righteous? If so, is your desire for righteousness as intense as it should be?
4. Would the people closest to you say that you are righteous? Explain.
5. Read 1 Peter 3:10-12 and answer the following questions:
 - a. This passage describes the qualities of a righteous person. What are they?

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matthew 5:6

The Beatitudes — Week 4

- b. What are the benefits/rewards of righteousness? What does it mean that 'the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous'?
 - c. What is the warning for those who do what is evil? What does it mean that the face of the Lord is against them?
6. Refer to the sermon for the following questions. What is the relationship between righteousness and salvation? (See Titus 3:5; 1 Jn 2:29; 1 Pt 2:24; Rm 6:16.)
7. How can you make sure that your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees (see Mt 5:20)?
8. What are some ways that you need to become more righteous?
9. How can a person grow in righteousness?
10. How does hungering and thirsting for righteousness lead to happiness?

The Last Word: Any righteousness that you achieve will not merit heaven; and any righteousness that you achieve is only possible with God's help.

