

He that hears THESE sayings

- Mt 7:24-28

- **Hear** these sayings of Mine and **does them**:

- Like a wise man who built house on rock

- did not fall because it was built on the rock

- **Hear** these sayings of Mine and **does not do**:

- Like a foolish man who built house on sand

- it did fall because it was built on sand

- Since “*these words of mine*” are considered the foundation upon which to build, what are we doing to be certain our life is built on them?

Blessed Are ...

- to regard someone as happy or fortunate in view of favorable circumstances –
- used by Greek speaking people to show honor, praise for success, happiness and contentment.
- They attributed it to beauty, wealth, power, athletic ability, mental achievement, or even good fortune were praised with this term.
- The honor that secular things bring to man in this world, Jesus used to motivate in the spiritual.

Blessed are ... Those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

- *Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness, For
they shall be filled. Mt. 5:6*

Earliest Experience with Righteousness

- As children, we learned the rules and the discipline if we disobeyed.
- When punished fairly, we accepted it as the just consequences of our selfish action,
- If punished for something we didn't do, we cried in outrage: **“That's Not Fair!”**
- Clearly, visceral emotions exist between righteous and unrighteous outcomes.
- Joy and satisfaction when treated fairly or anger and outrage over injustice.

Righteousness – What is Mine

- Righteousness is more than justice and fairness in judgment.
- Manner of life where all interactions with others are fair and just.
- We recognize the needs of others and treat them with respect.
- This too was learned early in life.
- When someone took something of ours, once again, there was the outrage expressed in:
“That’s Mine!”
- If we have forgotten, just listen to children.

If We Could only Hold onto This

- Righteousness is justice, equity, fairness, and integrity in every interaction.
- “***dikaiosune** ... the virtue or quality or state of one who is **dikaios**; 1. state of him who is such as he ought to be, righteousness... b. integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling and acting...” (Thayer, NT:1343)*
- Treating the needs of God and man fairly, with justice and equity in our thoughts, words and deeds, we are righteous.
- We allow others to keep what is theirs.

God calls Unfairness / Injustice: **SIN!**

- Every sin cheats someone of something very precious. **“It’s Not Fair:”**
- Cheated of possessions (stealing/coveting),
 - our integrity (bear false witness)
 - our life (murder),
 - our spouse (adultery),
 - our souls (false teaching),
 - our peace (anger).
- Those who recognize this and want to be fair are acting righteously. While those using lusts and selfishness to take what they have no right to have are unrighteous.

The Entire Law Proclaimed This

- Every Law God has given fulfills this purpose.
- *“The Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments” Deut. 6:24-25*
- When give God what is rightfully His.
- When we allow man to keep what is His.
- This is righteousness and it is what the Law was designed to proclaim.

The Entire Law Hangs on This

- *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Mt 22:36-40*

God Always Treats others with Fairness, Justice and Equity

- God is the objective standard of righteousness.
- *“For the lord is righteous; He loves righteousness”*
- *“righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;”* (Ps. 11:7; 89:14).
- Our outrage over unrighteousness reflects His:
- *“the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness/unrighteousness of men”* Rom. 1:18
- Created in His image and likeness, unless marred by selfish lust, we want to give fairness and equity as badly as we desire to receive it.

Righteousness – Dividing line Between a Child of God and a Child of the Devil

- *In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God. 1Jn 3:10*
- *“If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.” 1Jn. 2:29*
- *He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 1Jn. 3:7*
- *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. Jn. 8:44*

Are We Hungry Yet?

- These teachings ought to create a visceral and uncontrollable response of desire / need.
- Hunger and thirst are both relative needs.
- Jesus ... after a meal... after a 40 day fast
- Jesus used a present active participle to emphasize continual action.
- He wants us to be “*the one hungering*” and the continual “*thirster*,” and never become satisfied!
- Our righteousness is our personal fairness and equity in treatment of God and man.
- We should be insatiable in this hunger/thirst!!

True Hunger

- *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Mt. 4:4).*
- *“I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. (Job 23:12).*
- Are we like this? Can we truly say that our interest in God’s standards of righteousness are as continual as our daily hunger?
“Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger.” (Lk. 6:21,25).

True Thirst

- *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” Ps 42:1*
- *“My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water” Ps. 63:1*
- Are we thirsting for righteousness as the deer pants for water?
- Do we recognize the dry and thirsty land of unrighteousness we live within and thirst for righteousness?

Interest in How we Treat God and Man

- *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 2 Tim 3:16-17*
- Every Scripture reveals how to be fair to others.
- Fair to God in worship and godliness.
- Fair to our fellow man in all our dealings.
- The more we hunger and thirst for this, the more we will hate sin and the stronger our **mourning** at our lack of **meekness** over taking from others what we had no right to have will become.
- This godly sorrow keep us **poor in spirit.**

- 3 "Blessed are the **poor in spirit**,
- For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who **mourn**,
- For they shall be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the **meek**,
- For they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**,
- For they shall be filled. Mt 5:3-6