

Matthew 5:6-10 Study Guide: Happy Are the Hungry

April 27, 2025

Quiz

1. What is the main point the sermon makes about seeking happiness?
2. According to the sermon, what does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
3. How does the sermon describe the relationship between happiness and righteousness?
4. What is the first element of this "happiness" discussed in the sermon?
5. According to the sermon, what happens when a person abandons hope in their own self-righteousness?
6. What does the sermon suggest is the problem with many people in the modern American evangelical church?
7. What does the sermon say about the idea of "spiritual ecstasy" or a "holy high"?
8. What does the sermon say is the second element that continues the idea of happiness after salvation?
9. According to the sermon, what was the perceived problem with the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees?
10. What does the sermon mean by calling the pursuit of righteousness a "divine discontentment"?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The sermon argues that happiness is a byproduct of righteousness, not something to be sought directly or through external means.
2. It means to have an undiminished desire for more of God's righteousness than one has ever had before, a hunger that continues throughout life until seeing Christ.
3. The sermon states that happiness is a byproduct of being right with God; true happiness comes from righteousness, not from external experiences or feelings.
4. The first element of this happiness discussed is salvation, which initiates the hunger and thirst for righteousness as a gift from God.

5. When a person abandons all hope of saving themselves and their own righteousness, and hungers for salvation from God, they can know true happiness.
6. The sermon suggests that many people in the modern American evangelical church want to be religious but are not committed, often due to a lack of sufficient motivation or desire.
7. The sermon states that "spiritual ecstasy" or a "holy high" is not what people need to seek; true fulfillment comes from being right with God, not a feeling or experience.
8. The second element that continues the idea of happiness after salvation is sanctification, a continuous desire to grow and become more like Jesus Christ.
9. The perceived problem was that their righteousness was seen as external conformity to rules and works, which Jesus stated was insufficient to enter the kingdom of heaven.
10. It means to continuously seek divine things and never stop in the pursuit of righteousness, recognizing that true satisfaction is only found in Christ.

Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the sermon's argument that happiness is a byproduct of righteousness and not an end in itself. How does this contrast with worldly pursuits of happiness, and what are the implications for Christian living?
2. Discuss the two elements of happiness, salvation and sanctification, as presented in the sermon. How are these concepts related, and why is the continuous hunger for righteousness important after initial salvation?
3. Evaluate the sermon's critique of seeking external validation or experiences (like "spiritual ecstasy" or "holy high") instead of righteousness. What are the potential dangers of prioritizing feeling over a right relationship with God?
4. Examine the sermon's interpretation of Matthew 5:6 ("Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled"). How does the sermon define "hunger and thirst" and "righteousness" in this context, and what does it mean to be "filled"?
5. The sermon suggests that unhappiness in a Christian's life may indicate unholiness or reliance on self rather than God. Discuss this assertion and how the pursuit of holiness, according to the sermon, addresses these issues.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Beatitude(s):** Blessings proclaimed by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12). The sermon focuses specifically on the sixth beatitude.
- **Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness:** An intense, continuous, and unsatisfied longing for God's righteousness, not one's own. It is an undiminished desire to grow closer to and become more like Christ.
- **Righteousness:** Being right with God; a state of justification and a pursuit of moral and spiritual purity. The sermon distinguishes between the righteousness given by Christ at salvation and the ongoing pursuit of righteousness (sanctification).
- **Salvation:** The act of being saved from the power, presence, and penalty of sin through faith in Jesus Christ. The sermon presents this as the initial step where true happiness begins and the hunger for righteousness is first satisfied, though the hunger continues.
- **Sanctification:** The ongoing process of being made holy and growing in Christ-likeness after salvation. The sermon emphasizes this as a continuous state of hungering and thirsting for more virtue and purity.
- **Happiness (in the sermon's context):** A state of true joy and fulfillment that is presented as a byproduct of being right with God (righteousness) rather than something to be sought directly through worldly or external means.
- **Spiritual Ecstasy/Holy High:** A feeling or experience sought after in some church circles. The sermon critiques this as a distraction from the true need for righteousness and a right relationship with God.
- **Divine Discontentment:** A term used in the sermon to describe the ongoing, blessed state of pursuing righteousness, never being fully satisfied with one's current spiritual state but always desiring more of God.
- **Unspokens:** Prayer requests that are not verbally stated but are understood to be present, often associated with difficult or private issues. (Mentioned in the opening prayer).
- **Magnificat:** Mary's song of praise recorded in Luke 1:46-55. The sermon references Luke 1:53, where Mary speaks of God filling the hungry with good things.