

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ SoM: Beatitudes, Part 5

Last time...Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things and I will be his God and he shall be My son

1 John 5:4 this is the victory that overcometh the world, our faith

Oh how happy is the man who humbles himself under the mighty hand of God,
knows where his strength comes from...and leans on that strength vs his own

This time...Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled

Matt 5:6

To get some context: righteousness vs unrighteousness, Kingdom of God vs Kingdom of devil
We live in the last days of the “times of the Gentiles” (~ 2600 years now) during which time
Israel is ruled by the heathen before her King comes to deliver her

Nations to watch in these “days of Noah” when violence and corruption have filled the world,
when men hunger and thirst for unrighteousness in the kingdom of the devil:

- Russia
- Iran
- Islam
- France
- Israel

Russia

- the nation to “finish” Is 17:1...right before our eyes
- relations with Turkey (Ottoman Empire) could set off all sorts of trouble
- home of the world’s deepest anti-Semitism (*Protocols of the Elders of Zion*)
- Putin is BMOC in ME...he has the power and prominence
- the price of oil...oil and gas reserves in Israel a “hook in the jaw” for a Ezk 38-39?

Iran

- close military and commercial relations with Russia
- calling for the destruction of Israel, with the “nuclear OK” from the world
- aided and abetted by POTUS

Islam

- global caliphate is warp and woof (foundation) of devil’s angry, hateful religion
- “fruit” of Is 17:1 – has invaded Western Civilization (Roman Empire)
- aided and abetted by POTUS
- will make greater demands to exert their influence, exploiting the democracies
- God’s instrument of judgment on Western Civilization

France

- Charlemagne
 - In 771, became king of the Franks, a tribe in present-day France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and western Germany.
 - He embarked on a mission to unite all peoples into one kingdom, and convert his subjects to Christianity
 - In 800, Pope Leo III (750-816) crowned him emperor of the Romans.
 - When he died in 814, his empire encompassed much of Western Europe, and he had also ensured the survival of Christianity in the West.
 - He was the first and last Emperor of the Roman Empire in the West
 - His successors were the “King Louis” of France
 - Today, Charlemagne is referred to by some as the father of Europe.
- Holy Roman Empire (for centuries in conflict with Islam) aka Middle/Dark Ages
 - Crusades
 - Most powerful man in Europe was the pope
 - French kings had conflicts with the pope
 - 2 competing capitals: Rome and Avignon (SE France) (a-vee-nyawn)
- Renaissance:
 - France became the center of The Renaissance (Rousseau)
 - Humanism: man is good by nature, freedom from any restraint (from God)
 - Humanism invades Christianity
- The Enlightenment
 - France became the center of The Enlightenment in Voltaire, another French philosopher
 - The removal of Christianity from society
- The most popular worldviews today emanated from France
 - humanism
 - enlightenment
- Roman Empire/Western Civilization is centered in...France
- Paris Islamic terrorist attack on Nov 13...Friday the 13th
 - On Friday, October 13th, 1307, King Philip IV of France, in league with Pope Clement V ordered all Knights Templars to be rounded up and thrown in prison.
 - For two hundred years the Knights Templar had been the most dominant force in Christendom.
 - They held enormous power and great amounts of wealth...they started an international banking system (the basis of the modern banking system) that allowed nobles to deposit funds and valuables for safekeeping
 - Despite the loss of the Holy Land to the Muslims, the Templars were still a part of everyday life in the Middle Ages.
 - On Friday, October 13, 1307 King Philip IV ordered all Templars arrested and their property seized.

- The Knights Templar, which had dominated medieval life for two centuries, was no more.
- Unfortunately for Philip, the Templars had learned of his planned treachery beforehand.
- Many of them escaped and their vast stores of treasure were hidden from the King's soldiers...many believe into Switzerland: photographic negative of the Templars flag...white cross on red background vs red flag on white background

Friday the 13th ISIS attack in Paris...Muslim attack on France
Still referring to "Crusaders", Muslims know the history,
will wait centuries for revenge vs forgive

Friday the 20th Terrorist attack on the Radisson in Mali
Former French colony, Gov't backed by France
Hotel the site of a peace conference

- UN Climate Change Conference in Paris
 - Nov 30 –Dec 12, 2015...OWG agenda (190 world leaders, including Pope)
 - President of France gave an ultimatum to his peers beforehand, demanding a signed agreement
 - At signing, the UN Sec'y General, President of France, and French Foreign Affairs Minister were the center

Israel

- Only nation objecting to Iranian nuclear deal
- Only nation ISIS fears ([Zech 12:8](#))
 - Zech: "times of Gentiles" from Jewish perspective (vs Dan 2, 7)
- [Zech 8:13](#)
 - eg Israeli cancer med used by God to heal an anti-Semite, Jimmy Carter
- Foundation of [Zech 12:10](#) is being laid
 - 25 prominent orthodox Rabbis are embracing Jesus
 - Did not break the Law but fulfilled it
 - Taught Torah better than any rabbi
 - "Christianity is neither an accident nor an error"
 - Not quite knowing Jesus' Identity...
- [Zech 8:8](#) with [Zech 12:9](#) and [Zech 13:9](#)
 - USA turning against, as are all nations (Gen 12:3)

Repent! The kingdom of God is at hand!

Understand the times, diligently living our lives to the praise and glory of the King

His Kingdom has a "Constitution"...SoM

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled

v6 Blessed:

- happy, oh how happy
- fortunate

hunger and thirst

- toil, yearn deeply, suffer longingly with hunger and thirst
- famished and dehydrated

righteousness

- justification
- equity – fair and just
- acceptable (Gen 2:7)
- pleasing

shall

- a promise to be delivered...in the future
- determined or planned...in the future
- will...with certainty
- involves waiting now for the promise later

filled

- satisfied
- gorged, gluttoned
- given abundance

The poor in spirit (v3) see clearly their spiritual bankruptcy and depravity

The mourners (v4) are grief-stricken over the fruit of their sin (death)

The meek (v5) know something is wrong, know where their strength comes from,
and lean on that strength

Those who are spiritually famished and dehydrated (v6) yearn deeply for that which is
pleasing to God and suffer longingly to be acceptable to God

So we need to understand: hunger, thirst, and righteousness

Hunger is the body's drive to be fueled, energized...the longing for food...
and every human knows it

- a dire need
- the feeling of an empty stomach, often accompanied by growling or churning, or a sense of hollowness in the stomach.
- can result in low blood sugar and the shaky, weak, lightheaded feeling
- if ignored long enough, it can go away altogether, get really uncomfortable, become a deafening roar, or lead to desperation

Anybody here blessed by being hungry?

No, we do not enjoy it and will not tolerate being hungry

Neither do the poor in our own city or the discarded children in Egypt enjoy being hungry but must deal with it

Thirst is the body's cry for water, for without which there is no life...
and every human knows it

- a dire need
- a dryness in the mouth declaring the need for hydration
- a longing, craving, that makes hunger pale in comparison

Anybody here blessed by being thirsty?

Ever felt like Tom Hanks in *Castaway*?

No, we do not enjoy being thirsty and will not tolerate it

Neither does any person, yet much of the world has a clean water crisis

Righteousness is the spirit's need to be in right relationship with God...
and most (if not all) humans know it, but few have it

Righteousness has two dimensions involving 2 volunteers in a relationship: God, man

1. Gift of God

Matt 5:6

Matt 6:33

2. Responsibility of man – submission and obedience

Matt 5:10

Matt 5:20 introducing rest of SoM

Matt 13:41-43 man's choice

Our fulfilling our responsibility (perfectly doing, Matt 5:48)

- is NOT the prerequisite for our receiving God's gift
- accompanies our receiving God's gift

We must receive the gift of God if we are to "do our part"...otherwise we cannot

Therefore, this CANNOT mean hunger and thirst for SELF-righteousness

- already have it in full
- unsatisfying, repugnant, filthy (Is 64:6)

Righteousness/acceptance that is pleasing to God is

- the gift of God
- the responsibility of man

walking “hand-in-hand” (Amos 3:3)

The fulfilling of our responsibility that accompanies God’s gift of righteousness...is accomplished by

- another gift of God – the Holy Spirit
(John 15:5, Luke 11:13, Luke 12:32)
- another responsibility of man – submission, obedience
(Eph 4-6 ie live Spirit-filled, Spirit-led lives)

Man can have a right relationship with God only by

- God’s gift of gracious intervention
Plan of Redemption, Messiah, Jesus Christ
1 Cor 1:30, Eph 2:8-9
- God’s power so we can “do our part”
(SoM that follows Matt 5:20)
- Man receiving the gifts of God by faith

Evidence of man’s new and right relationship with God is seen in man’s conduct (how he lives his life, relationships with others)

The morality Jesus teaches in SoM is radically unlike any other system of morality ever taught by man...as high as heaven is higher than earth

Man’s conduct pleasing to God does not result in God’s Kingdom
(aka salvation by works)

God’s Kingdom and righteousness result in man’s conduct pleasing to God
(aka salvation by grace alone)

To “hunger and thirst for righteousness” describes our dire need for a right relationship with God and others (Tables 1 and 2)...a dire need with greater intensity than physical hunger and thirst

The King was hungry and thirsty

Matt 4:1-4, 11

Matt 27:34 with Ps 42:1-3 and Ps 22:1...until John 19:28-30

Heb 2:18

Jesus comes preaching Good News and accomplishing the will of God;
how should man respond?!

1. To come to Jesus Christ the Son of God without pretence,
empty-handed, humble and broken
2. To eat of the Bread of Life and drink of the Living Water
until filled/gorged/sated
3. With profound thankfulness for God meeting our deepest
needs...graciously, mercifully

Therefore, as was the King, so should be the citizens of the kingdom

If we so intensely feel physical hunger and physical thirst (temporal), should we
not more so feel spiritual hunger and spiritual thirst (eternal)?

Our spirits cry out for the Bread of Life (John 6:35)

Our spirits cry out for Living Water (John 4:10-14, John 7:37-39)

Why did Monica and I leave the church where we were saved, deeply involved,
and had many relationships?

Because were we hungry and thirsty...for Bread of Life and Living Water

We had a painful, deep craving in our souls that was not met

Why are you here in a no-frills church, meeting in a rented school MPR and
having none of the world's metrics of "success"?

Because you are hungry for the Word of God and the Spirit of God

Because you know a church is not a building but a Body, a Family

Why do so many people sit in churches that offer entertainment,
carnal pleasures (Starbuck's, Crispy Crème doughnuts),
emotional experiences, and fluffy feel-good-isms?

Because they are dead (not born again) or they are ignoring the longing of
their weakened spirit deep within

Why do many humans know they need to be in a right relationship with God?

- Conscience
- Witness of creation declares His majesty
- Man was created to worship God

Why do few men have a right relationship with God?

- Religions and traditions and philosophies of man
- Salvation by works (doctrine of demons to the condemnation of God's righteous judgment)
- Ignore the cries of their spirit, seek to be satisfied carnally instead
- Do not receive/believe, read the Word of God
- Hearers of the Word but not doers...do not submit and obey the Word

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled

True or False: God accepts me just the way I am

False...God accepts His righteousness, not man's

True: God loves you; God the Father accepts Jesus Christ His Son; you must be born-again of the Spirit of God

True or False: The ends justify the means

(worldly means employed to attain Godly ends)

eg Young Married Bible Studies end with going to a bar for a few beers in order to draw more young marrieds to the Bible Study

eg Church in Denver that holds Bible studies...with smoking weed

False

True: Holiness is the means

True or False: That which is right is relative

False...God defines truth, man does not

True: What is right is absolute and unchanging, as revealed in the Word of God, not as defined by social averages

1967: homosexuality was shameful in our society

2015: homosexuality is celebrated in our society

It was wrong in 1967 and in 2015 and forever

Conclusion:

Amos 8:11-13

Is 55:6-7

Be hungry and thirsty every day, all year
Do not diet on the Bread of Life
Do not snack or nibble
Daily Reading and “Chew” long on it
Study
EAT!

Covet the things of God and not the things of this world

Look up, our redemption draweth nigh...be not ashamed at His coming

Remember:

- God offers a blessed hope, instead of good cheer, in the face of personal disappointment and systemic evil.
- God gives joy, rather than happiness, because joy can account for suffering, while happiness cannot.
- God draws his people into a kind love that bears all things, including death and the loss of worldly freedom, so that the faithful might be His witnesses of the reconciliation and peace Jesus Christ exhibits in His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension.