



Sonfollower In-depth Studies

THE BEATITUDES SERIES - LESSON 6

Matthew 5. 6

famished and parched

Hello Sonfollowers. How nice it is to be with you again as we continue being rooted deep into the Word of God as one body of women in Christ. Being that we are proceeding with lesson 6 so far apart from lesson 5, we are going to start with a most needed journal entry which causes us to purposefully revisit our first three beatitudes...

journal - to begin, let's spend some time journaling what we have learned to be so important about our first three beatitudes in Matthew 5. 3-5. Maybe jot down some of the most beautiful characteristics of one who is truly evidencing each one of these beatitudes in their life. This is just simple review before moving into our next beatitude.

our third step...

This we have learned to be our third step with Jesus Christ as His genuine follower...our existing meek as only Jesus defines meek. Being that it has been awhile since our studying this most divine meekness...let's just mention a simple review. Meekness as Jesus' own life defines is evidenced within the one who knows their rightful place before God and before others. Here is what makes divine meekness such a beautiful characteristic to watch...Jesus' meekness within one never leaves the side of, closes the door on, or walks away from anyone in their worst of sin. Divine meekness, as Jesus' own life defines, is minus all such self-righteousness which would choose to do so. This does not mean that we tolerate and appease each other's sin...it simply means that we deal with all sin as only Jesus has exemplified. In such gentle grace, Jesus has never made Himself unavailable or unhearing to any one of us in our own worst of sin, thus...we know such a choice can only come out of one's darkness...never God's light. Our existing so faithfully on our knees before God and beside each other, through the thickest of circumstances, is the very evidence of which proves our being rooted deep in God's light of who we are...just as corrupt and of unclean lips as any other. This causes us to never move powerfully toward another without extending the very grace we know to live and breathe in as a way of life. Now false meekness among us will most certainly move powerfully toward another, or away from them, minus God's grace. In Jesus' very life example...He never closed the door on, or walked away from any one in their worst of sin, though...many chose to self-righteously walk away from Him thinking Him to be so wrong to remain by the side of one whom they thought to be too wrong to walk with. Though false-meekness can also sound so deceivingly meek in its conversations, it will always choose to act powerfully toward another in such a way which evidences their thinking to be the one who is right rather than their humbly knowing to be just as wrong. Let's maybe try and bring this last thought down to a more elementary one...anyone who is thinking to be the one who is right is logically thinking another to be wrong, thus they act according to this mindset..."I am right and you are wrong." Yet...a genuine Sonfollower, as we saturate our self in only Jesus' meekness, we are set apart from this type of destructive and most worldly way of thinking among us, knowing...it only belongs to the Devil. The actual divine evidence of one being truly meek is in there acting toward another, never thinking to be the one who is right, but rather their knowing to be just as wrong. We might end this short review by looking at this divine meekness in this way...one in genuine meekness never loses sight of who they are in their dealings with others, thus...we desperately exist on our knees before God and so faithfully beside each other never acting powerfully toward another contrary to how we know Jesus acts towards us every day of our own life in our own worst of sin.

Now, we are going to blaze right into lesson 6 with possibly a much needed reality check. So, lets go for it!



thought – to worship raising our hands to our Redeemer while treating another in the very way we praise our Redeemer for never treating us is simply our worshipping our self...never God.

Wow! Tis such a blazing, maybe even jolting thought for some of us to receive as we begin our lesson today. There is no doubt, sometimes the hardest truths for us to swallow are those we desperately need, yet...we must all agree that there is nothing like a divine truth made visual, powerfully exposing what is actual self-righteousness within us or around us. Thankfully, God's Word is saturated with these blazing, yet powerfully freeing truths which are only meant to be a most loving and gentle life-line to the one who is assuredly drowning in the grip of what is actual self-righteousness. Reality is...until we are one who is truly on our knees before God and beside each other desperately hungering and thirsting after only what God knows to be truth and how He desires we move in and through His truth...we will rather reject His life-lines allowing it to be only our self, like our feelings and what we think to know, to dictate what will be our righteous truth and way - the very meaning of self-righteousness. It is sadly more common than we might think for one to truly believe their way, truth, and life to be following Jesus Christ, when in reality they are only blaspheming Him and the very beautiful message of the Cross. We might want to ask ourselves this question...can we see the difference between God's righteousness vs. what is actual self-righteousness? How can we be certain that our thoughts, beliefs, and actions are following after God's righteousness rather than our self's? Well, throughout the rest of this lesson, we are going to vividly look at these differences for the sake of our being divinely equipped in growing more deeply rooted in being the godly friend Jesus desires for us be to one another. Thus, we are not only going to look at what it truly means to be hungry and thirsty for God's righteousness...we are going to look extensively at God's righteousness and what it visually looks like vs. our own. We just might be surprised at how much actual self-righteousness is having its way among whom we least expect...our self.

journal - in reading Matthew 5. 6, prayerfully jot down your first thoughts concerning what it means to you to be truly hungry and thirsty for something...

the words hunger and thirst...

We must note right away that both of these words portray one who is desperately toiling after something needed. In these two words we are seeing visually the very desperation we must exist in in order to be one who is truly seeking solely what we need...Jesus' way, truth, and life in every situation brought before us. Without this hunger and thirst for only God's righteousness, we will find ourselves satisfied in feeding and drinking on what each other thinks to know rather than our ever being one who is truly following Jesus Christ. Yet...we can go even deeper into these two words...

The Greek word translated "hunger" here in Matthew 5. 6 is *peinao*, which means to be famished, or to continually crave something. The Greek word translated "thirst" here is *dipsao*, which means to be parched, or to continually be in strong thirst for. Now, in our going even deeper into both of these words...we see a **continuous** desire; a **continuous** hunger and thirst for something which never lets up. Let's think on these words exactly as Jesus is comparing...In our own bodies, we daily crave an intake of both food and water to remain physically strong and healthy, yet...we live in a world of choices. Will we eat and drink of what our body actually needs to remain strong and healthy, or...will we rather choose to eat and drink of all the junk around us that might taste good going down, but eventually will cause our bodies to fall apart, become weak and medicine-dependent, and simply unhealthy? The longer our body goes without the food and water it needs to remain strong and healthy...the more famished and parched we become as our body becomes more and more distressed. It is the same in our spiritual life. How hungry and thirsty are we for Jesus Christ? Are we choosing to eat and drink of the ways, truths, and life of which our spiritual life truly needs to remain strong and healthy in Christ, or...are we rather choosing to fill ourselves up with what each other thinks to know, which may taste good going down, but eventually causes our spiritual life, if it hasn't already, to fall apart, become weak and self-dependent, and simply unhealthy? This is why it is only the one who is desperately hungering and thirsting for only Jesus' way, truth, and life who is the one who is His genuine follower. Without this hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ...we will never seek beyond what each



other thinks to know. Once again, the question we might need to ask ourselves is this...what am I actually hungering and thirsting for? What am i actually eating and drinking of?...God's righteousness, or only my own or each other's. Let's find out...

journal - as you read Matthew 5. 6, jot down your first thoughts concerning this word righteousness. Maybe jot down some examples of how you believe God's righteousness might differ from self-righteousness.

To begin...This portion of our study might be truly eye-opening for some of us who are possibly blinded by our own, or someone else's, self-righteousness. This is what makes self-righteousness so dangerous among us...it thinking to be right is the very blinders which keep us from seeing just how wrong we truly are. And, if we are all in God's light of ourselves right now...we know there to be none among us who hasn't been there; our being blinded by our self-righteousness needing some blazing truth to set us free from all we think to know. It is for this very reason that we are going to take our time in studying through this divine righteousness. As our mission will always be in Sonfollower In-depth Studies...God's perspective is all that we need, right? Thus...might we be willing to lay down at the foot of the Cross everything we might think to be truth about this word, allowing it to be only God's truth which powerfully rises again in the depths of our heart. The more we think to know, only means all the more we have to lay down. Here we go...

the word righteousness...

The Greek word translated "righteousness" here in Matthew 5. 6 is *dikaosune*, which means perfect justification, or rightness. Wow! First and foremost, we clearly see this righteousness to be **perfect**. How unlike us this righteousness truly is, right? None of us come close to being perfect, thus...we immediately know this righteousness to be founded in the only one among us who is perfectly just and right in His every thought, belief, and action...Jesus Christ. This righteousness will never be founded in ourselves or in each other. God's righteousness is founded only in the perfect one, Jesus Christ. Who is Jesus Christ according John 1. 14?...Jesus Christ is the Word of God made flesh among us. How important it is that we grasp this most life-changing truth here...the life of Jesus Christ is the Word of God among us, thus...they are one in the same. This is why Jesus is called the Living Word of God. Jesus came to earth and perfectly brought to life God's Word for our very example of what is righteous way, truth, and life. Wow again! Yet...let's move even deeper into what God's righteousness actually is. Let's start with a simple question...

journal - Jot down any way you can think of that God has ever spoken to you in a given situation and why you truly believed it was God?...

There is a dangerous thought process which has invaded even the most unexpectant, well-intended follower among us. It is a thought process which leads one to believe that God speaks to us through several different means as His Word, the Holy Scriptures, is just one of those means. I need us to listen very carefully now so to not lose our way through this most important thought...to believe the Word of God to be just one of those means by which God speaks to us is actual heresy and gives Satan an instant foothold in any life who chooses to believe so. Such a thinking brings the Holy Scriptures right down out of its sphere of divine relevance to the level of being just one of God's tools, like us, rather than it actually being the very life of His Son, Jesus Christ, living among us. Might we never forget...in John 14. 6 we have already been taught in a previous lesson that Jesus Christ, who is the living Word of God, is our **only** righteous way, truth, and life. No man cometh unto the Father but by His way, truth, and life, thus...the living Word of God is not just one of those means by which God uses to speak to us...it is rather the very foundation of all of His means. Whether He speaks to us directly, in our quiet time, through creation, through one another, etc...we only know it is truly Him when what is being revealed is actually founded within the very living Word of God to be of Him. If it is not founded within the very pages of the living Word of God to be of Him...then it is not of Him. This is why God also addresses us with a warning in 1 John 4. 1...don't just believe every spirit which comes to you claiming to be speaking for God. Test that spirit making sure that what is being revealed in way, truth, and life falls in line with the living Word of God made flesh among us, Jesus Christ. In other words...we need to be so hungry and thirsty for God's righteousness, that we look beyond what each other is saying to be of God, our making sure that it truly is of God. This doesn't mean that we should



ever stop listening to one another as being a tool God will use...it simply means that one who is truly speaking for God will never be offended when we test what they are saying up against the Word of God. On the contrary, they will remain right by our side making sure we move beyond them to God. There are two problems around us to address here. The first problem is...one who seems offended that we are not simply receiving their voice to be of God...we know them to surely not be speaking for God but their rather trying to be God in our life. We should never desire to be so used of God in another's life that we begin to think that God would ever ask of our voice to replace His. On the contrary, God will only use one to speak His truth who understands this...being a godly friend is about our moving others beyond us straight to the voice of God. The second problem is...many of us never move beyond what each other thinks to know. In fact, our seeking way, truth, and life in the situation before us might look more like this...our sitting around listening to what each other thinks to know, rather than our simply shutting up and so faithfully opening up the living Word of God hungering and thirsting for what only God can know and has always known in sending His Son to reveal His righteous way, truth, and life in and through. We must understand...Jesus' way, truth, and life is only founded in God's Word, thus...being godly friends is about our learning to be quiet in all we think to know and our rather being committed to listening only to the one who does know...the omniscient living Word of God, Jesus Christ.

thought - woe to the ones who find them self committed to a truth and way founded only in each other...for until it is denied and turned away from; yes, they may walk in the company of each other...but never God.

Simply another powerful truth brought to visual challenging us to promptly turn away from such ways, truths, and life which truly only represent each other...never God. Oh how we must never lose sight of this truth...No man ever cometh unto the Father but by Jesus' way, truth, and life, the very living Word of God. Thus, we must be so hungry and thirsty for God's righteousness in every situation before us that we desperately seek His way, truth, and life beyond all we think to know, knowing...it is a matter of our truly being one who is following only Jesus Christ. For those of us who are truly existing in this hunger and thirst for only God's righteousness, His blessings for our life just "keep on a coming" so lets just "a keep on receiving!"

the blessedness of those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...

This is where we will surely see in-depth how God's righteousness is truly set apart from that which is only of this world. The Greek word translated "filled" here in Matthew 5. 6 is *chortazo*, which means...being continually and abundantly satisfied. I love this thought which implies Jesus to not only bless us in a filling to the rim...He rather lavishes us in an endless supply of righteousness as in a garden so flooded with food and water that it never runs out. Wow! We also see, once again, this word **continuous** as in a continuous filling which never ends. Might we see in this verse how blessed we truly are in Jesus Christ as we hunger and thirst for only His righteousness...If Jesus is asking us to exist in a never ending hunger and thirst for His righteousness...how beautiful that He meets our need in what He is asking of us by blessing us with this never ending filling. In other words...God will never ask something of us in which He is not prepared to bless our life abundantly in and through. Now, how might this divine filling differ from that which is only a filling of this world? Sadly, when one is in actual bondage to what is only self-righteousness...their hunger and thirst ends in that moment they think to know. Self-righteousness fills us up in such a way that we do not want any more. In fact...we stop eating and drinking of more truth, we close the door and move on, as soon as we think to know. Yet...a genuine Sonfollower will never think to know something in the fullness of what only God can know, thus...our hunger and thirst for more of God's truth is never ending. We live knowing that God knows more and we seek it, we are desperate for it, and we do not stop hungering and thirsting for more of Him on this side of heaven. The more of God's righteousness we swallow...all the more we know to need. I wonder just how many of us truly exist in this continuous, spiritual appetite of which keeps us toiling after more; this continuing deep craving to seek further, dig deeper, and to never think to know to the point of our sadly becoming rejective or unhearing of the truth we still need. We must never forget...only these are those among us who Jesus lavishes with this blessedness of continual filling of endless righteous way, truth, and life...those who never become satisfied in what they think to know but



rather find their sole satisfaction in being continually hungry and thirsty for more of Christ, more of Christ, and more of Christ.

thought - the moment we think to know is the very moment we begin to reject the very truth we still need.

review and relational application...

God is so amazing in keeping simple what our self is so prone to complicate in its desire to support its own self-righteousness. God's righteousness is simply this...the living Word of God being lived out in and through our life. God will never ask of us to think, believe, or act outside of His Word. The Devil will. This is why our sole spiritual safety in Christ is dependent on this most important truth concerning the divine relevance of the living Word of God...He needs to be our whole life. From Genesis to Revelation...we need to be desperate to live within His life knowing, just as it is...it is the perfect, omniscient righteousness of Christ. It is this simple...to think, believe, and act within the very pages of the Word of God, is for us to live righteously **in Christ**. To think, believe, or act outside of the Word of God, is for us to live sinfully **outside of Christ**. As long as we are hungering and thirsting for God's righteousness, though...we will faithfully be one who test all that we are hearing, within us and around us, up against the powerful and perfect living Word of God. If it doesn't line up with who Jesus Christ is and the beautiful message of the Cross...we know to instantly reject it as being of God. This is the perfect righteousness of God alive within us...the living Word of God being our every thought, belief, and action. This doesn't mean that we will ever live perfectly on this side of heaven...it just simply means we are desperately allowing the only one who is perfect, Jesus Christ, to be our sole way, truth, and life.

For our life-changing application...let's take some time in revisiting some situations we have been involved in, truly examining our thoughts, beliefs, and actions in and through them. If we have ever thought God to speak to us a way, truth, or life through any means which has caused us to act powerfully toward another without grace...might we be one who is willing to examine what we have come to believe and why. Maybe even more difficult...might we also be one who is willing to deny the self within us that is probably, in this very moment, trying to convince us that we are still right. We must never forget...when we are in God's actual truth, it will never matter how we feel or what we think to know in the situation before us, we will simply know that God knows far more than what we do, thus...in such surrender to His omniscience we will move only as Jesus' own life has exemplified to be of His righteousness...powerfully toward another extending grace. If our thoughts and feelings have led us to do otherwise...we need to desperately fall to the Rock before the Rock falls on us. As in our other applications, there are most certainly different steps each of us may need to take toward God and toward another in genuine penitence, but...might we simply embrace with everything we are this most beautiful way, truth, and life of Jesus Christ...there is not a moment that goes by that Jesus isn't faithfully waiting, and so desiring to receive us unto Himself in such freeing forgiveness. It is never a matter of will He...it is simply a matter of will we. And lastly, think on this an ever present life-line...if what we think to be God's righteousness hasn't faithfully brought us to our knees before God and beside another as one, at peace, and reconciled...then it surely is not of His righteousness but only of our own.

to end...

The more we soak in what is God's actual righteousness, the more we will see our existence being saturated in a mercy unlike this world has ever known. God's righteousness is never without mercy, and...there is nothing more beautiful to God than a garden of beautiful Sonfollowers just dancing in the wind of His mercy. It is so contagious, so freeing, and ever so showered upon the ones who choose to walk only in Jesus' way, truth, and life. So, until our next study simply entitled...Blessed are the merciful, I pray that we will know our worth in Christ in pouring out and into others what this time in God's Word has poured out and into us. Share with another Jesus' offering of such a divine blessedness as this for their own life. In Jesus' name...