



SECURING SATISFACTION

Matthew 5:6

- Jesus - *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”* (Matthew 5:6 NIV)
- Many popular songs over the years have expressed people’s struggle with finding purpose and satisfaction in life.
- King Solomon said in the Book of Ecclesiastes that he couldn’t find purpose and satisfaction in education, money, pleasure, his vocation and in the accolades of others.
- Jesus - *“God blesses those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”* (Matthew 5:6)
- **“Righteousness” results from entering into a relationship with God.**
 - *“This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight . . . As the Scriptures say, ‘It is through faith that a righteous person has life.’”* (Romans 1:17)
- **“Righteousness” results from living in a right relationship with God.**
 - *“Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God’s children.”* (1 John 2:29)
- We should all want to pursue **“righteousness”** in our lives because it’s the way to abundant life on earth and eternal life in heaven.
 - *“The way of the godly leads to life.”* (Proverbs 12:28)
- **How do we become “right with God,” and how do we “maintain our hunger” for Him?**

Living A “Righteous Life” Requires:

RECEIVING JESUS AS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

The Bible Teaches Us That:

- **NONE OF US ARE RIGHTEOUS IN GOD’S EYES**
 - Heaven is a perfect place prepared for a “perfect people,” and none of us are qualified to reside there.
 - *“Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins.”* (Ecclesiastes 7:20)
 - No one can ever perform enough “good works” to compensate for the failures and flaws of our lives.

- *“For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.” (Romans 3:20)*
- **Our sinfulness separates us from God and will keep us out of Heaven unless someone pays our “sin debt” for us.**
- **JESUS PAID FOR OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS ON THE CROSS**
 - *“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. . . .” (Romans 3:23-25)*
 - **Jesus was the “perfect sacrifice” who could pay the penalty for our sins.**
 - *“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)*
 - *“God saves us, not because of righteous things that we’ve done, but because of His mercy.” (Titus 3:5)*
- **WE ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS WHEN WE TRUST IN JESUS**
 - *“We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are (or what we have done).” (Romans 3:22)*
 - **Since Jesus paid for our sins on Calvary’s cross, we can experience the Lord’s forgiveness, freedom and eternal salvation no matter how big a sinner we’ve been or how miserably we’ve failed in our lives.**
 - *“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.” (Romans 10:9-10)*
 - **When did I pray to receive Jesus as the Savior and Lord of my life, and how has His presence and power transformed my life?**

Living A “Righteous Life” Requires:

REFUSING TO SETTLE FOR JUNK FOOD

- **When we’re not hungry for a righteous relationship with the Lord it’s because we are “full of ourselves” for feeding on what the world offers.**
- *“A wise person is hungry for truth while the fool feeds on trash.” (Proverbs 15:14)*
- **If we’re always focusing on activities, accomplishments, experiences and other people rather than on the Lord, we’re not going to have a hunger for the Lord.**
- *The Lord - “Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink - even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk - it’s all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to Me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food.” (Isaiah 55:1-2)*
- **What or who am I really “hungry” for in my life?**

Living A “Righteous Life” Requires:

REAFFIRMING THE LORD AS FIRST IN OUR LIVES

- *“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for You. My soul thirsts for You; my whole body longs for You in this parched and weary land where there is no water.”* (Psalm 63:1)
- **Real happiness and blessedness comes from pursuing the Lord in our lives.**
- Jesus - *“The thing you should want most is God’s kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you.”* (Matthew 6:33 NCV)
- **When we feel like we’re in a “desert place” in our lives we must refocus on pursuing the Lord and place Him first in our lives.**

Living A “Righteous Life” Requires:

READING AND STUDYING GOD’S WORD

- **The truths and teachings of the Bible provide the “food” that we need to keep our souls nourished.**
- Jesus - *“People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* (Matthew 4:4)
- *“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment.”* (1 Peter 2:2)
- **We all need to hear God’s Word regularly, but we also need to “dine” on God’s Word daily.**
- *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Living A “Righteous Life” Requires:

RECONNECTING WITH OTHERS BELIEVERS

- **We tend to develop a “hunger” for what others around us are hungering for.**
- *“Follow the steps of good men instead, and stay on the paths of the righteous.”* (Proverbs 2:20)
- **As we connect regularly with other Believers and study and live out God’s Word together, we will live stronger and more satisfying lives.**
- *“The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.”* (Proverbs 12:26)
- *“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”* (Proverbs 27:17)

Living A “Righteous Life” Requires:

REFLECTING ON HOW THE LORD LOVES US

- **We struggle at times with “feeling righteous” and “being righteous” because we think we don’t love the Lord enough, but the real issue is that we don’t understand how much the Lord loves us.**

- Paul - *“I pray that you have the power to understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God’s love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. THEN you will be filled with the fullness of life AND the power that comes from God.”* (Ephesians 3:18-19)
- **When we realize how much the Lord loves us, we will draw close to Him and desire to live for Him.**

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- **How do we begin living a “righteous life” in the eyes of the Lord?**
- **How can we continue living a “righteous life” in the eyes of the Lord?**
- **What are the benefits of living a “righteous life”?**
- **What steps do I need to take to develop a hunger and thirst for “righteous living”?**