



SERIES: Walking with Jesus
SPEAKER: JACOB WIRKA
Thursday, November 9, 2023
Scripture: Matthew 5:6-9
TITLE: Living As A Citizen of Heaven

Today we are exploring Matthew 5:6-9. These verses I found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This is Jesus' powerful explanation of what it looks like to live on Earth as a citizen of Heaven.

First, in verse 6 we read ["Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."](#) This reminds me of the classic Snickers commercials with the tagline "you aren't you when you're hungry." I bet you can think of a time where you let your hunger get the best of you, hunger is powerful! Your body needs food! That's why Jesus uses this comparison to food. But what is it that He says we should be hungry for? Righteousness. People are blessed who have an intense desire to live the right way, to pursue to live the way God created us to live! These people aren't satisfied by living in sin like the rest of the world, this doesn't mean that they're perfect, but they have an intense desire, like hunger pains, for righteousness because they know God's design for humanity, and His way of doing things is far better. Only His way can really satisfy our souls!

In Verse 7 Jesus says, ["Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."](#) What a powerful idea. Can you think of a time you were shown mercy? When you know you messed up, you were in the wrong and deserved to be punished but were forgiven you anyway? We all desire mercy, we all desire forgiveness. But how often are we willing to show it to others? The truth is we need to remember the mercy we were shown by Jesus on the cross. When you begin to understand how much mercy was poured out on us, I believe a natural response is we start to show that mercy towards others.

This idea of mercy goes further than just forgiveness, it can also be compassion on those who are hurting, kindness, and care for those in need. Especially to those who least deserve it, because not one of us deserves the mercy we were shown on the cross.

Jesus goes on to say in verse 8, ["Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."](#) This verse I find particularly challenging because I know I'm not perfect. My heart is not pure. Jesus knows not one of us is perfect, so what does He mean? This is touching on the core of Jesus' teachings in The Sermon on the Mount. He's not just concerned just with our external actions, but our internal heart motivations. A person who is pure in heart has a sincere faith, and a true desire. They pursue the things of God. This doesn't mean that we are perfect, but that our motivations are true. These are people who aren't just seeking to act good or put on a show for the approval

of others. These are people pursuing God because they love Him and desire a relationship with Him.

Lastly, we'll turn our attention to verse 9. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." As we look to the world around us we are constantly reminded that humans don't naturally make peace. We're constantly looking for things to argue and divide over. Jesus says the children of God seek to make peace. Why? Because Jesus came and gave His life to bring peace between sinners and a holy God. The Gospel is the message of peace. Now those who follow Jesus are called to go into this world and create peace between each other. So we need to take the message of the good news of peace into this world. When people understand that they now have peace with their maker, they can begin to seek peace with each other. Keep in mind that peacemakers aren't just the people who go in between two fighting parties, it can also be someone on either side of an argument who chooses to stop fighting and make peace instead.

All of these teachings are challenging, they go against our natural way of doing things. Pursuing rightness, mercy, pure hearts and peace doesn't come naturally. These actions only flow from hearts that have been transformed by the Gospel!