

A scenic landscape featuring a large mountain range under a blue and orange sky, with a misty valley and a lake in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with some snow patches. The sky is a mix of light blue and warm orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The foreground shows a calm lake reflecting the sky, with a line of trees and a misty valley in the middle ground.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT
Mt. 5:6

Mt. 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Review

Several weeks ago, we began the exegesis of this great sermon preached by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16

A. The Setting, 5:1-2

B. The Sayings, 5:3-12

1. What We Are, 5:3-5

a. Poor in Spirit, 5:3

b. Pressed in Soul, 5:4

c. Patient in Strife, 5:5

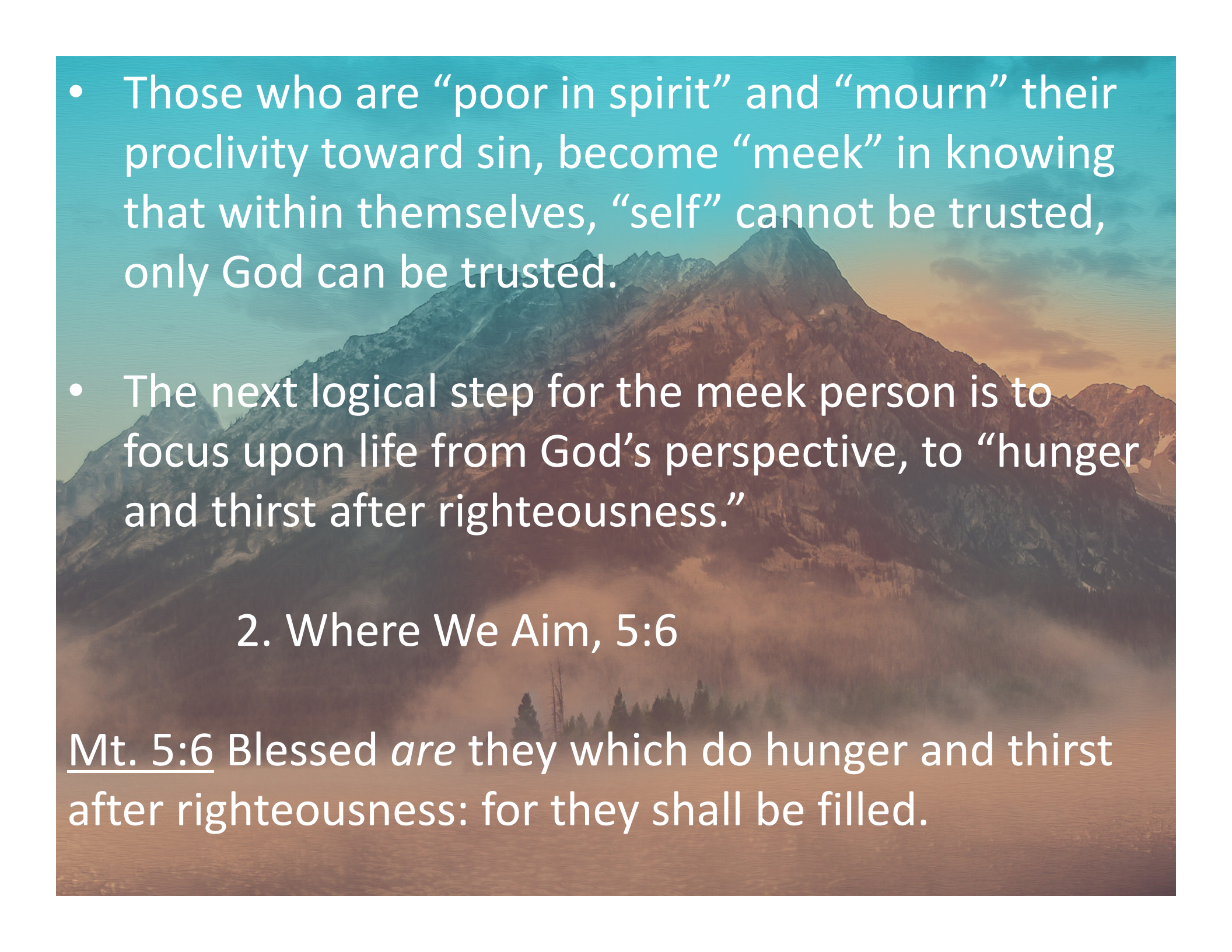
Tonight, we continue studying this great sermon, The Sermon on the Mount, focusing upon verse 6. Note the progression in the first four Beatitudes:

Mt. 5:3 Blessed *are* the **poor in spirit**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed *are* they that **mourn**: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed *are* **the meek**: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed *are* they which **do hunger and thirst after righteousness**: for they shall be filled.

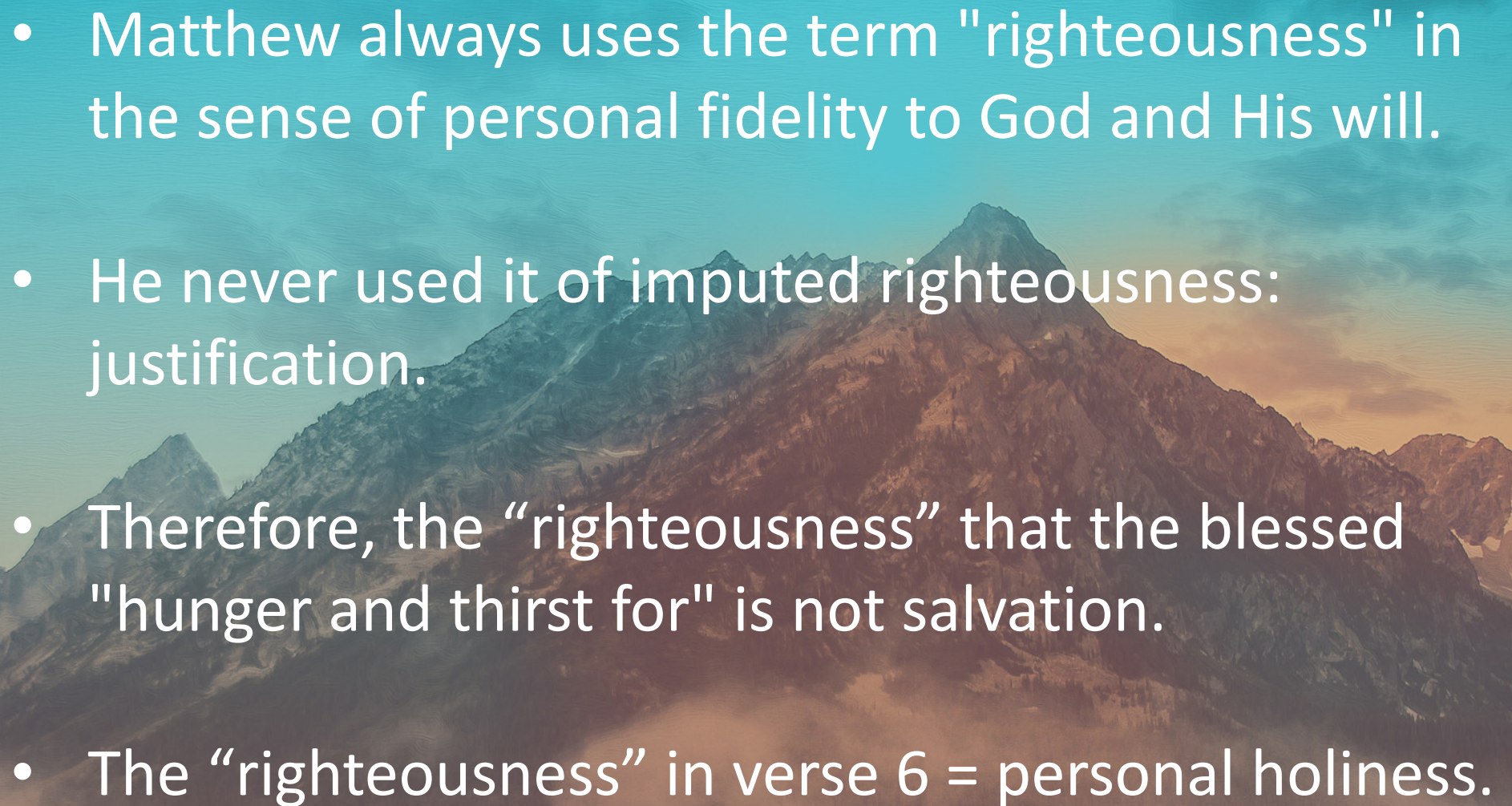
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- Those who are “poor in spirit” and “mourn” their proclivity toward sin, become “meek” in knowing that within themselves, “self” cannot be trusted, only God can be trusted.
 - The next logical step for the meek person is to focus upon life from God’s perspective, to “hunger and thirst after righteousness.”

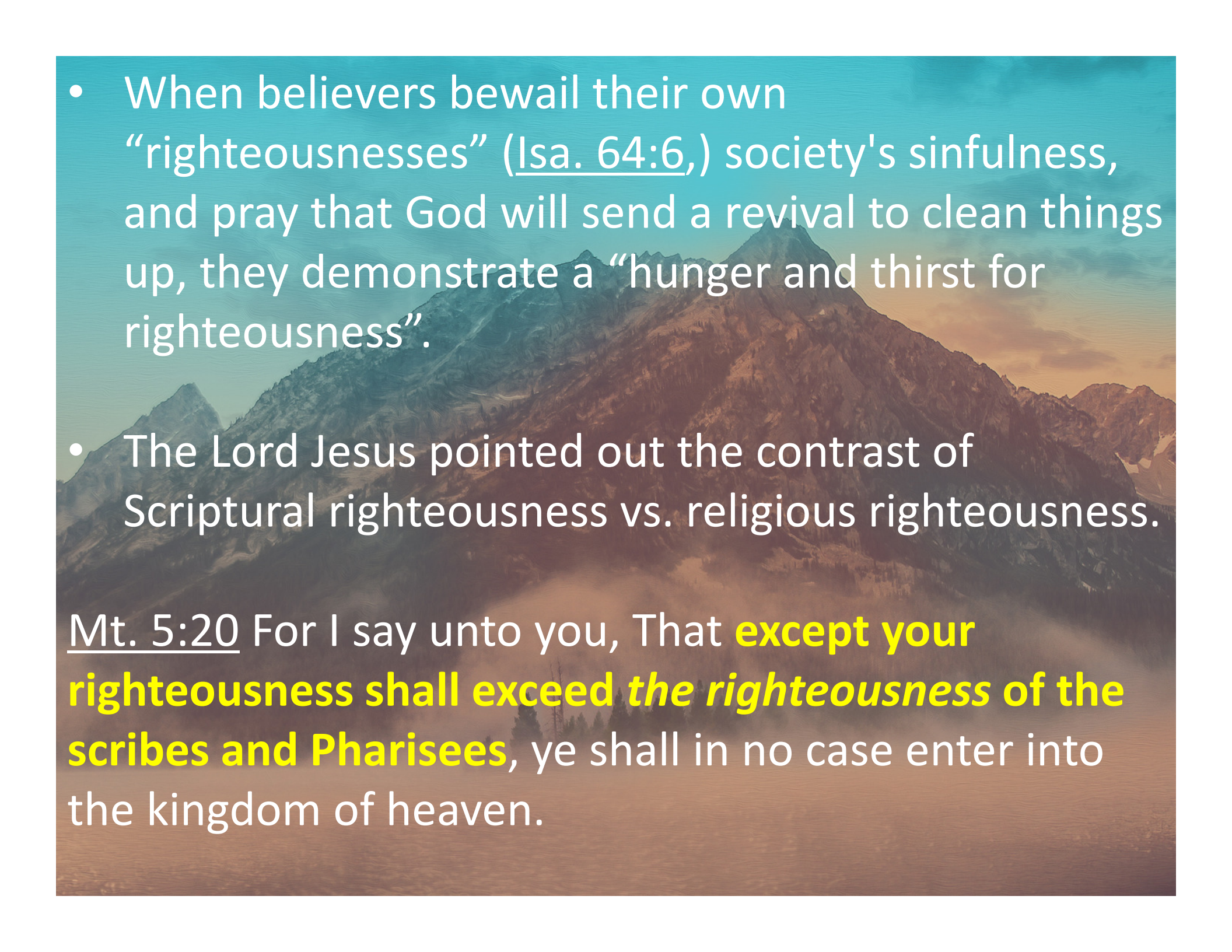
2. Where We Aim, 5:6

Mt. 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

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- Mankind was created to glorify God, but most live without any concern for that purpose.
 - Passion for living should be directed toward God and His perspective for mankind → righteousness.
 - Believers are to aim high:

Psa. 97:6 **The heavens declare his righteousness**, and all the people see his glory.

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- Matthew always uses the term "righteousness" in the sense of personal fidelity to God and His will.
 - He never used it of imputed righteousness: justification.
 - Therefore, the "righteousness" that the blessed "hunger and thirst for" is not salvation.
 - The "righteousness" in verse 6 = personal holiness.

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- When believers bewail their own “righteousnesses” (Isa. 64:6), society's sinfulness, and pray that God will send a revival to clean things up, they demonstrate a “hunger and thirst for righteousness”.
 - The Lord Jesus pointed out the contrast of Scriptural righteousness vs. religious righteousness.

Mt. 5:20 For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees***, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

- Scriptural righteousness is of national importance!

Prov. 14:34 **Righteousness exalteth a nation:** but sin is a reproach to any people.

- In “The Sermon on the Mount,” the Lord Jesus declares His perspective on how to live a life pleasing unto God.

Mt. 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Original Word: πεινάω

Transliteration: peinaó

Definition: **to hunger**, be hungry

Usage: I am hungry, needy, desire earnestly.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3983.htm>

- The “secret” to spiritual growth is spiritual is cultivating a spiritual “appetite.”

1 Pet. 2:2 As newborn babes, **desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

Original Word: διψάω

Transliteration: dipsaó

Definition: **to thirst**

Usage: I thirst for, **desire earnestly**.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1372.htm>

- The Lord calls those “blessed” who hunger and thirst after righteousness, not those who are already “filled” with it.
- Those thirsting “...shall be filled” is a promise of fulfillment for following His directives = obedience requiring personal discipline focused upon righteousness.

- The righteousness of Mt. 5:6 includes the judicial perspective of God's approval:

Original Word: δικαιοσύνη

Transliteration: dikaiosuné

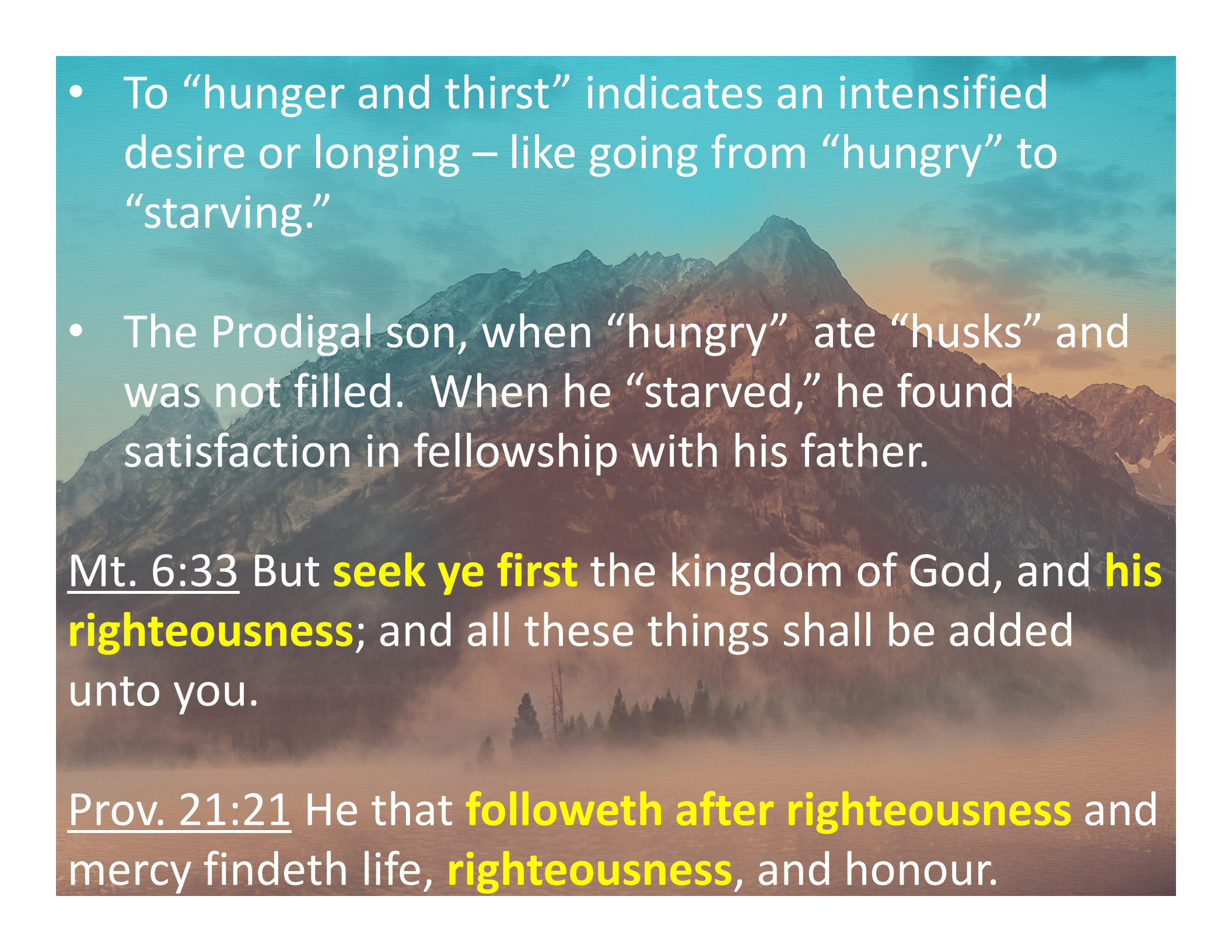
Definition: righteousness, justice

Usage: (usually if not always in a Jewish atmosphere), justice, justness, righteousness, **righteousness of which God is the source or author, but practically:** a divine righteousness.

dikaiosýnē (from δικη, "a judicial verdict") – properly, *judicial approval* (the *verdict* of approval); in the NT, *the approval* of God ("divine approval").

dikaiosýnē ("divine approval") is the regular NT term used for *righteousness* ("God's

judicial approval"). *dikaiosýnē* ("the approval of God") **refers to what is deemed right by the Lord (after His examination), i.e. what is approved in His eyes.** <https://biblehub.com/greek/1343.htm>

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- To “hunger and thirst” indicates an intensified desire or longing – like going from “hungry” to “starving.”
 - The Prodigal son, when “hungry” ate “husks” and was not filled. When he “starved,” he found satisfaction in fellowship with his father.

Mt. 6:33 But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and **his righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Prov. 21:21 He that **followeth after righteousness** and mercy findeth life, **righteousness**, and honour.

- Consider the example of Moses:

Ex. 33:13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, **shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight:** and consider that this nation *is* thy people.

18 And he said, **I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.** ...

22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that **I will put thee in a clift of the rock,** and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

- David exhibited an appetite or thirst for God:

Psa. 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks,
so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

2 **My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God:** when shall I come and appear before God?

- The Apostle Paul was hungry and thirsty for the Lord:

Phil. 3:10 **That I may know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

14 **I press toward the mark** for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- Besides 1 Pet. 2:2, Peter expressed his desire to “grow in grace:”

2 Pet. 3:18 But **grow in grace, and *in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ***. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

- Loss of spiritual appetite leads to backsliding, dormancy, and apostasy.

Heb. 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and **are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat**.

13 For **every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe**.

14 But **strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil**.

- The purpose for hungering and thirsting after His righteousness is to be like Christ:

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- A believer's pursuit after God and His righteousness has a special promise: "...for they shall be filled."

- Remember Israel's lack of faith in the wilderness regarding God's power and provision:

Psa. 78:18 And **they tempted God in their heart** by asking meat for their lust.

19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, **Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?**

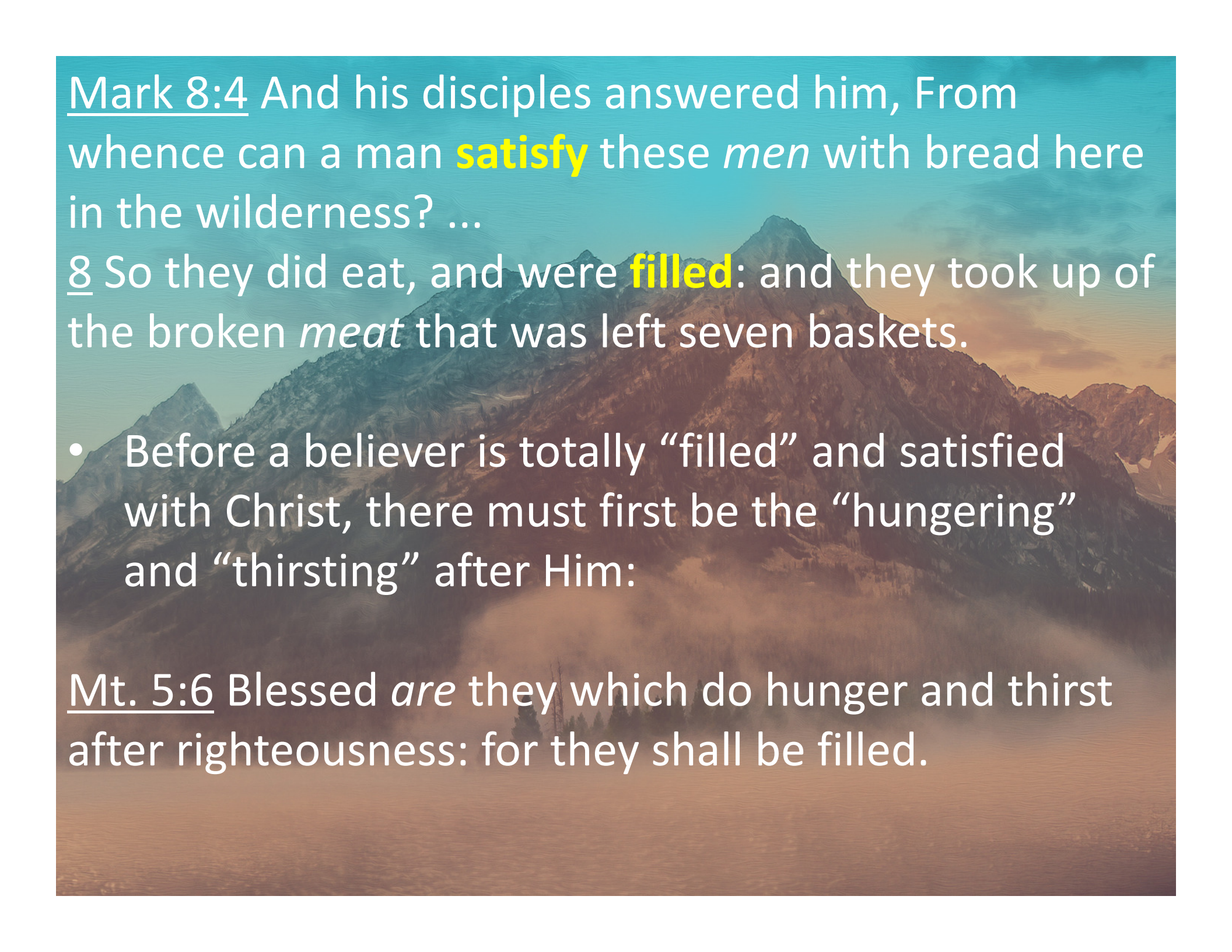
Original Word: χορτάζω

Transliteration: chortazó

Definition: to feed, fatten, fill, satisfy

Usage: I feed, satisfy, fatten.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5526.htm>



Mark 8:4 And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man **satisfy** these *men* with bread here in the wilderness? ...

8 So they did eat, and were **filled**: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets.

- Before a believer is totally “filled” and satisfied with Christ, there must first be the “hungering” and “thirsting” after Him:

Mt. 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

- There is a great day coming when believers will be “filled,” and blessed, with complete happiness and satisfaction, in eternal fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ!

Rev. 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 **They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more;** neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For **the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them,** and **shall lead them unto living fountains of waters:** and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Conclusion

Psa. 63:1 **O God, thou art my God**; early will I seek thee: **my soul thirsteth for thee**, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

2 **To see thy power and thy glory**, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

3 Because **thy lovingkindness is better than life**, my lips shall praise thee.

4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

5 **My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness**; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

6 When I **remember thee** upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

