

STUDY GUIDE

for

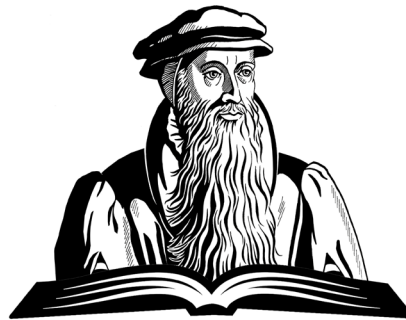
The Beatitudes

A VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

Lecture #6

Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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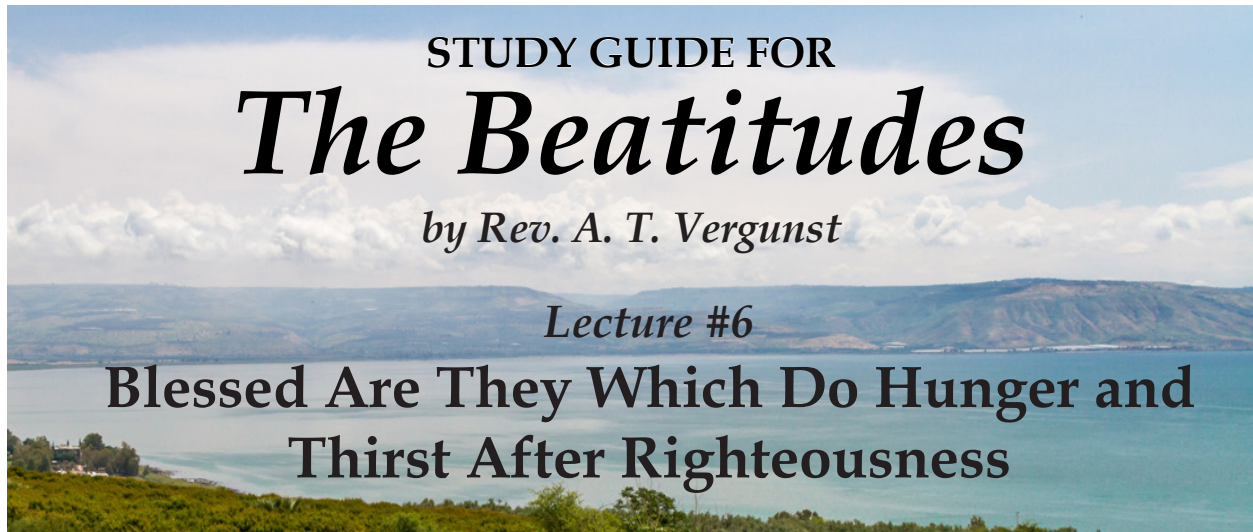


STUDY GUIDE FOR
The Beatitudes

10 Lectures

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

1. A General Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount
2. A General Introduction to the Beatitudes
3. Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit
4. Blessed Are They That Mourn
5. Blessed Are the Meek
6. Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger and Thirst After
Righteousness
7. Blessed Are the Merciful
8. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart
9. Blessed Are the Peacemakers
10. Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted for
Righteousness' Sake



Scripture Text

“Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
—Matthew 5, verse 6

Key Points

1. There are many religions in the world, but there is only one God, and one way to come to him.
 - a. The only way to come to God is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The first three Beatitudes are like the root system of a fruit tree. The trunk is the fourth Beatitude; the last three Beatitudes are the fruit-bearing branches of the tree.
 - a. First three Beatitudes: a sense of spiritual poverty; mourning over sin; brings meekness.
 - b. All this awakens a hunger and thirst for deliverance in the righteousness of Jesus.
 - c. The last three Beatitudes are the fruit that grows out of that righteousness.
3. Everyone longs for safety and security in life and death, to find salvation, quiet conscience, or secure salvation.
 - a. Some pursue it by material gain.
 - b. Some say that God doesn't exist.
 - c. Some worship false gods, in many false religions invented by man.
 - d. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can provide salvation and security, peace of conscience.
4. Blessedness is not found in hungering and thirsting, but in the object sought—righteousness.
5. Righteousness defined and explained.

- a. To be right and to do right; obedience to God’s law.
- b. One hungers and thirsts for righteousness because they do not have it. No one can perfectly obey God’s law.

6. Reasons why hungering and thirsting after righteousness is a blessing.

- a. It is evidence that we are desiring the righteousness only found by faith in Jesus Christ.
- b. By faith in Jesus Christ, we receive his perfect righteousness.
- c. “They shall be filled”—a promise that every desire for righteousness will be fulfilled.

7. Some questions for self-examination to know if you are truly blessed.

Review Questions

1. Please explain the exclusivity of Christianity as opposed to other religions.

2. Please explain Rev. Vergunst’s analogy of the Beatitudes being like a fruit tree.

3. What does Jesus not mean by “hunger and thirst after righteousness”?

4. What is the biblical definition of the word “righteousness”? How does it relate to obedience and satisfaction?

5. If someone is hungry and thirsty for righteousness, what is that they really need?

6. Give three reasons why hungering and thirsting after righteousness is said to be a blessing.

7. In this lecture what does Rev. Vergunst tell us about the Lord Jesus Christ? What does this mean for the person who is hungering and thirsting after righteousness?

8. In the quote from J. C. Ryle, he says, “Our salvation is in Jesus’ doing and dying, and in both, he did enough.” Please explain what this means in relation to this Beatitude.

9. What is the spiritual condition of someone who hungers and thirsts after righteousness?

10. The Lord Jesus ends this Beatitude by saying, “For they shall be filled.” What does he mean by this? How does Psalm 89, verses 15 and 16 state this promise?

Personal Applications

1. Have you come to see that you are not righteous by nature, and that you cannot be and do what is perfect in the eyes of God? Have you also placed your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who has perfectly obeyed God’s law and provided you with his righteousness?

2. Please use the concluding questions in this lecture to examine your own spiritual situation. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for illumination and guidance to give your answers.
