

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 7***

***“6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled:” (Matthew 5:6 KJV)***

*The more we are after God and after the Kingdom of God the more we are filled with God and all our spiritual and physical needs are met and satisfied. The more we are hungry and thirsty for spiritual things, the more we filled with God. The more we are hungry and thirsty for worldly things, the more we are empty and dissatisfied.*

*People who have ulterior motive than God, and who move toward gaining worldly things, the more they will be empty, and void of the elements that make life possible, and exciting to live.*

*Some people may pretend to show that they are genuine and their heart is with God, but time, circumstances and the days to come will expose them and show how they are void and empty and they are not hungry toward God but toward the world and its pleasure.*

*Some people we may not observe or notice that they are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, but time, circumstances and days to come will show they are genuine people when they will keep their commitment toward what God had entrusted to them of ministry and service.*

Righteousness is the character of God, and when we hunger and thirst for righteousness then we are hunger and thirst more of God.

Let us now start read here the Scriptures that describes the righteousness of God:

***“I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.” (Psalm 7:17 KJV)*** God is righteous and His righteousness motivates us to sing to Him and to praise Him. ***“The Lord is full of righteousness. According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness.” (Psalm 48:10 KJV)*** The righteous acts of God inspire us to praise Him, worship Him and to serve Him. ***“Deliver me from blood guiltness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.” (Psalm 51:14 KJV)*** When God deliver us and save us from wicked men, doing the right thing to us we praise Him and sing to Him. That is why daily we praise the Lord, and we gather together to sing and raise up praises unto Him. Through the whole week God is doing good things to us, and that is why at the end of the whole week we gather to praise Him and worship ***“In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.” (Psalm 89:16 KJV)*** We sing and we rejoice because of the righteousness of God. Let us see the good things, the righteous acts that God is achieving to us, and let us come to worship Him and praise Him. As we remember the goodness of God and His acts toward us we sing unto God: ***“They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.” (Psalm 145:7 KJV)***

God is righteous and He love righteousness, ***“For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.” (Psalm 11:7 KJV)*** The righteousness of God is great, and he is also searching for the righteous and the upright in heart, that is why blessed are those who are hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled. They will be searching for God, and God Himself will be searching for them. *Righteousness is to do what is right, and to follow God is to do what is right and what God wants us to do.*

The righteousness of God is like the greatness of huge mountain and it cannot be missed, ***“Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.” (Psalm 36:6 KJV)*** The righteousness of God is a banner and a sign that cannot be missed; as we see the righteousness of God we are motivated to follow Him and do righteousness like Him.

The righteousness of God continued to those who are upright in heart. It is the promise of God to those who do the right thing: ***“O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.” (Psalm 36:10 KJV)*** The upright in heart are the delight of God and He will continue to do the right things for them.

***“Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.” (Psalm 45:7 KJV)*** In the same way if we love righteousness and hate wickedness God will lift us up. Jesus Christ, the righteousness of God, He is God the Son. He loves righteousness and hate wickedness, therefore God lifted up. We too He will lift us up if we follow and do the same.

***“And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.” (Psalm 50:6 KJV)*** The events that we witness on earth every day, and how God will deal with events and issues, these declare that God in Heaven is righteous and He deals with peoples and nations in righteousness. That is how heaven declares His righteousness. In what God is doing of acts on earth to deal with nations and peoples He is motivating us to sing unto Him and to praise Him for His right and proper acts that he is doing: ***“5 Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. 6 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. 7 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. 8 Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together 9 before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.” (Psalm 98:5-9 KJV)*** Natural events, typhoons, earthquakes, volcanos, floods, plagues and famines are events God allowed to happen in the world, as judgment to deal with people and to reckon account with them. That is His righteousness, to deal with wickedness, to reward righteous people and to bring His salvation to those who are willing to repent and follow God. It says here, ***“Let the floods clap their hands,”*** it means that God is allowing natural calamities to achieve his righteous purpose. That is why when we seek the righteousness of God we will understand what God is doing and that is why we praise Him and we play instrument of music in praising His mighty acts.

***“15 My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. 16 I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make***

*mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.* **19 Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee! 24 My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long: for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt.**” (Psalm 71:15, 16, 19, 24 KJV) As God is moving to reveal Himself to us, in saving us from sin, and in doing great things to save us from all our enemies, we continue to declare the righteousness of God and His work to all the nations around us, and we continue to live the righteousness of God and tell it to others.

God continually reveal His righteousness to the rest of the world and to the peoples and the nations whom they have not heard of Him, **“Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?”** (Psalm 88:12 KJV) Because He is righteous, He reveals Himself through miracles, healing, answer prayers, even in the darkest places of the world, and even in areas that seems to be forgettable by man, God is revealing Himself, **“2 Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.”** (Psalm 97:2 KJV) That is why the Scriptures also says, **“6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.”** (Psalm 97:6 KJV)

Certain times we are asking and questioning whether God is reaching certain people and how certain peoples in forgettable dark places in the world would hear of God. But the Scriptures tell us that the Lord is reaching them: **“The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.”** (Psalm 98:2 KJV) God reveals Himself through His work. God’s work is honorable, and we need to discern that His righteousness will continue and endure forever and that is why we continue to live for Him and declare His Word and His righteousness: **“His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.”** (Psalm 111:3 KJV)

In Psalm 119 the righteousness of God is His law and His testimonies, **“Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.”** (Psalm 119:142) The testimonies of God are the Old Testament and the better everlasting, New Testament, with the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, **“The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.”** (Psalm 119:144 KJV) The Scriptures give us understanding of who God is and how He wants us to live for Him: **“My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”** (Psalm 119:172 KJV) The law and the commandments of God are the righteousness of God.

In the book of Isaiah we can read much about the righteousness of God: God speak righteousness and God declare things that is right and we need to do the same, **“I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.”** (Isaiah 45:19 KJV)

God righteousness is near and His salvation had gone forth all over the world , and He shall save the people and the nations with the Word that He sent: **“My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall**

**wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.”** (Isaiah 51:5 KJV) What he means here with the ‘Isles’, are the ‘nations’. The righteousness of God is salvation to the obedient, and the judgment with God’s wrath on the wicked. The righteousness of God declares and send God’s Word to the nations in order for them to be saved. We too the same, we need to proclaim the salvation of God to the nations, and in such a way we are proclaiming His righteousness.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the righteousness of God, His salvation to the righteous and His judgment on the wicked who is not willing to repent will not pass away: **“Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.”** (Isaiah 51:6 KJV) That is why we are admonished this very day to declare: **“Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed.”** (Isaiah 56:1 KJV) Therefore we need to live in the fear of God, doing what is right and just and do justice and that is how the salvation of God is declared and His righteousness is revealed. God saw no one to work salvation for sinners, therefore He sent Jesus to earth, He incarnated in Mary and was given to birth in flesh. God wrought our salvation; He went down to earth, warring for the battle. He put on righteousness as a breastplate and the helmet of salvation and the garment of vengeance, not to revenge of us; He did not revenge from us but He put all our sins on His Son, Jesus Christ, and achieved great salvation to us: **“16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. 17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.”** (Isaiah 59:16-17 KJV) To receive the salvation of Jesus is free, but Jesus is not cheap. Jesus gave us His life and His body that He offered on the cross for our sins. God wants us to know Him, to know His righteousness and to live for Him. God want us to repent and renounce our sinful ways and live in the righteousness of God to be eligible to receive the salvation of Jesus. Salvation will come into our lives when we live in righteousness: **“If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”** (1 John 2:29 KJV) **“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”** (1 John 3:7 KJV)

Christians usually when they meet each other they will use this statement for greetings, “Praise the Lord.” With what we expound now we can understand what this statement means: **“Praise the Lord.” It means we can see the righteousness of God, through His sovierghnity over all what He created, Through all the events that take place all over the world, the natural calamities of floods, famines, typhoons, earthquakes, volcanoes and plagues that God send to judge, His salvation in Jesus Christ, His good acts towards man, and His judgment on those who disobey and His reward on those who fear Him; all these events show us the righteousness of God and the right things that He is doing and that motivating us to praise Him.**

The book of Daniel speaks about the righteousness of God in dealing with the sins of His people and our sins: **“O LORD, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us**

*confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.” (Daniel 9:7 KJV)* We lose the righteousness of God, and His salvation when we sin and live and move away from Him; we will be in confusion when we decide to sin and move away from God. The people of God in the Old Testament they were scattered when they sinned against God and replaced His Words with their idols. God caused them to be in exile for 70 years and after their repentance and after they bore the consequences of their sins He brought them back to the Promised Land. In the same way, when we repent and come back to God, He accepts us, because His righteousness is to accept sinners who repent: *“O LORD, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.” (Daniel 9:16 KJV)* Today the right way of prayer is the cry of repentance toward God, and that is how to do what is right, is to go back to God in repentance so God would have mercy on us and restore us, and restore His church.

This is what we can read about the salvation of God according to His righteousness in the book of Romans, which is by faith in Jesus Christ: Paul said, *“16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17 KJV)* The righteousness of God will shift us from our old faith on idols and religion to the faith in the truth through Jesus Christ our Lord. The righteousness of God is in bringing His salvation to us. Therefore, as we receive Christ, we should not be ashamed to preach the gospel and bring His salvation to others: *“22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;” (Romans 3:22, 25 KJV)* The blood of Christ is the propitiation to cover up all our sins, *“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.” (Romans 10:4 KJV)* God’s righteousness is that He make a way for us that our sins paid of by the blood of Jesus, so the way became open to us to reach God.

It is not because we are good or because of our own righteousness God save us. But because of His righteousness He had mercy on us and saved us. We need to stress that salvation is *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.” (Titus 3:5 KJV)* Jesus is without sin but was made sin for us, so He would receive what is due for us from punishment, and this is the righteousness of God to bring salvation into our lives: *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)* Jesus is our King, He is God, He is the righteousness of God and He is appointed by God to rule over our lives by the scepter of righteousness for He is the King of God’s Kingdom: *“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” (Hebrews 1:8 KJV)* Apostle Peter said a precious statement: That through Jesus’ sacrifice we receive salvation and precious faith as the apostles

received: *“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:” (2 Peter 1:1 KJV)* That righteousness of God who give us faith in Jesus Christ, will mandate on us to seek and follow the righteousness of God, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33 KJV)* We are required to seek His Kingdom and His righteousness so the rest of the good things will be added to us. And that is goes in what Jesus said, *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled:” (Matthew 5:6 KJV)*

*My dear and beloved:* The Scriptures tell us that God righteousness is different than man righteousness. The right things in the eyes of God are much different from the right things in the eyes of man, therefore, for this reason we need to go and consult the Scriptures. *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” (Isaiah 64:6 KJV)* The things that we think are right it might be just filthy rags before God: *“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17 KJV)* Here speaks that there is the righteousness of God. Paul said about himself, *“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” (Philippians 3:9 KJV)* We need to give up our own righteousness and our own ways and focus on the righteousness of God that the Scriptures would teach us so that we will know of what we need to do.

Let us now come back to God, repenting of our sins and from our wicked ways.

Let us come to God receiving His righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and with willingness to follow His ways and the path that He ordained for us to pass through.

*My Prayer:* Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death on the third day to give me eternal life.

Lord forgives me my sins \_\_\_\_\_.

*Let us confess and renounce our sins to the Lord. Let us confess and renounce all our pride, our own ways and our non willingness to follow the ways of God.*

*Lord I thank you for your Word to me that explains to me that I need to know your righteousness and to hunger and to thirst after your righteousness. Lord opens my eyes to see what you are doing in my life and in the life of the world that is around me. Lord opens my mind to understand your will and what you are doing in the world around me.*

*Lord I commit my life to learn from your ways and to follow your example and the Scriptures that will teach me your righteousness and your righteous acts. Lord I commit my life to be set as a good example to others. Lord I commit my life to you to declare your righteousness and your name Jesus to the nations of the people and to the people whom you have set around me.*

*Lord fills me with the Holy Spirit and gives to me the spiritual gifts that I need to evangelize and to make new disciples. Lord protects me and provides all my need so I can continue to go on and to serve you.*

*Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humble themselves before you to learn your righteousness and to abide in your ways; Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord fills them once again with the Holy Spirit and makes their life testimony attractive to others so that they will believe in you and start to follow you and live according to your Word and your righteousness.*

*Lord I pray for us as a church to help us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord we commit ourselves to do what right and just in your eyes. Lord continue to reveal your will to us and your righteousness so we will continue to declare your righteousness to all the nations and the people around us. Lord fills us once again with the Holy Spirit and enables us to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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