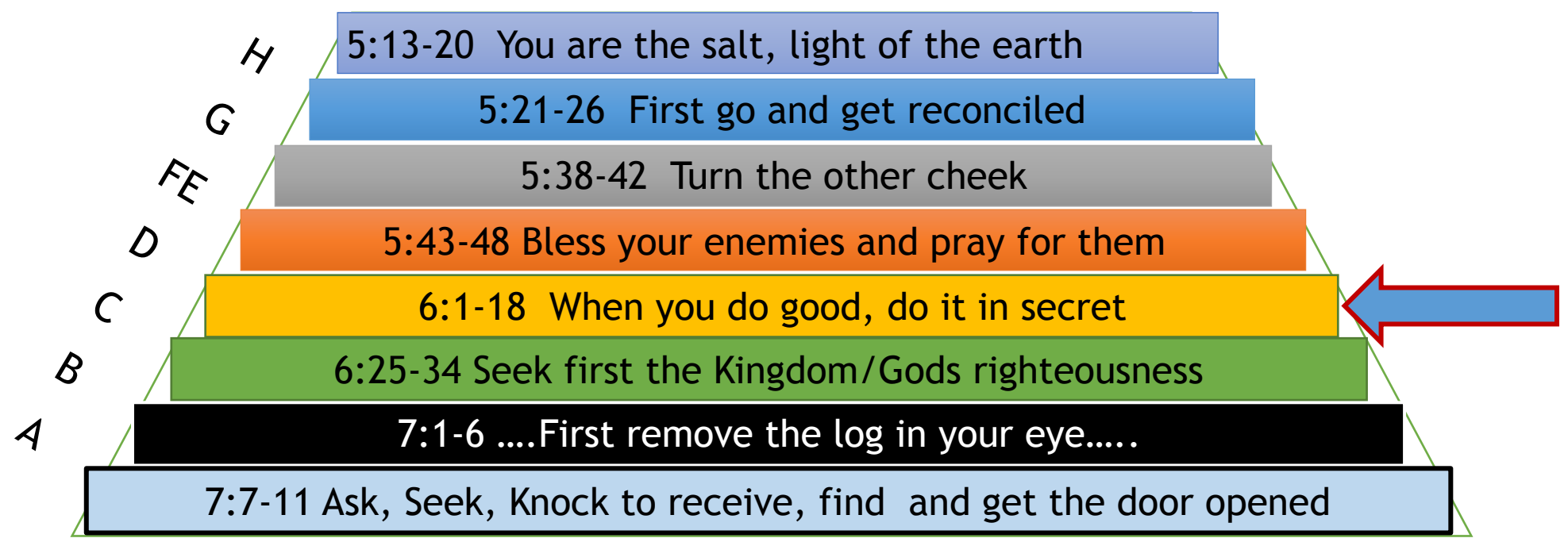
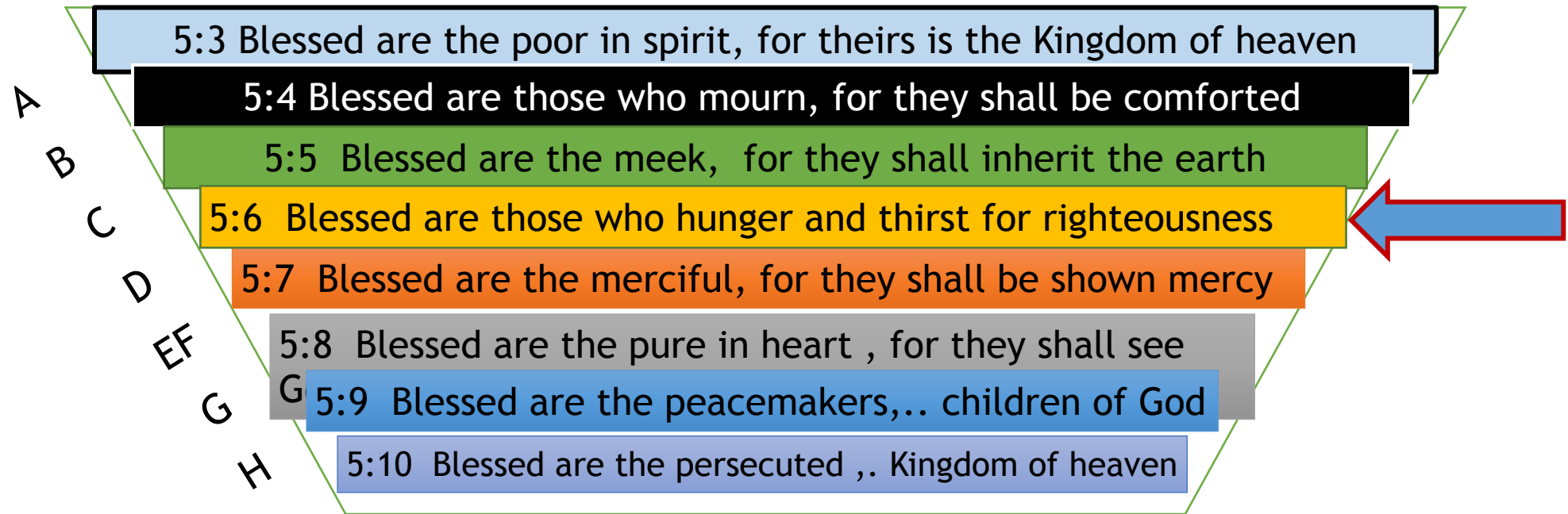




Be-ATTITUDES

8 STATEMENTS OF FAITH FOR A CHRISTIAN



Father's dilemma



- ❖ When the gifts become more important than the Giver
- ❖ Insatiable longing is God saying, 'Hey, I am here!'
- ❖ But we are looking for the next toy...

Jeremiah 2:12-13

Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror, declares the LORD. ¹³ "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

#4: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“God has made everything beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end”. Eccl 3:11

God has put eternity in our hearts and we have an **inconsolable longing**. We try to satisfy it with money, accomplishments, hallucinogenic drugs, climbing the career ladder, etc., But the longing remains

What are you hungering and thirsting

Isaiah 55:2–3:

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in abundance.

Incline your ear, and come to me; hear that your soul may live.

Thou madest
us for Thyself
and our heart is
restless,
until it rest in
Thee.

St. Augustine

Tragedy of life

- Often our souls are hungry and our hearts are thirsty.
- We feel an insatiable longing for something. We are restless.
- Life, Church, marriage, jobs, parents.....
- The grass is greener on the other side.

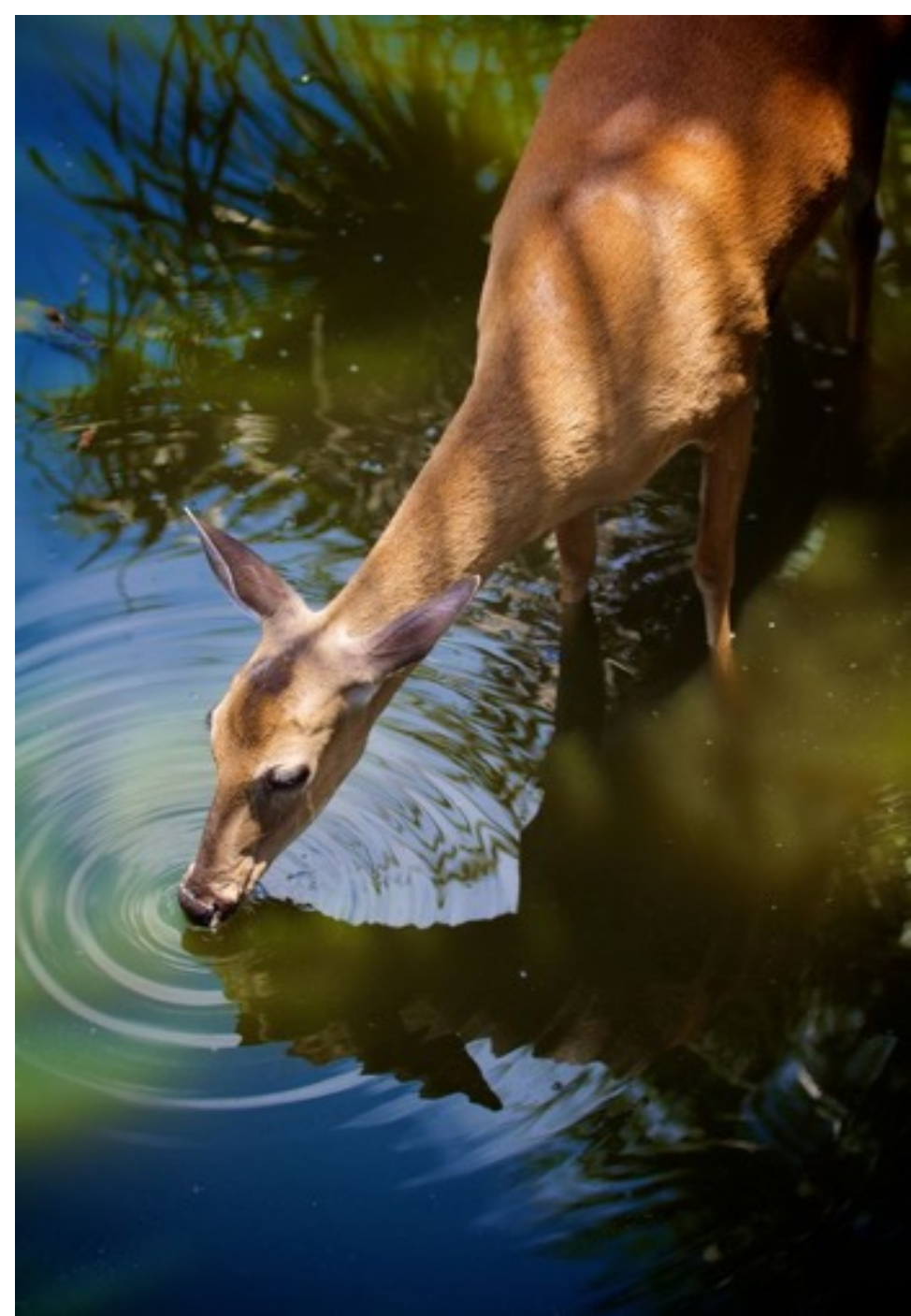
If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

CS Lewis



The gospel is persuasive not coercive in nature. The recipient must know what the gospel offers, and his/her condition without it. Then really hunger and thirst for it.

Psalm 42:1-2: As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be *chortazō*

- chortazō
- From G5528; to *fodder*, that is, (genitive case) to *gorge (supply food in abundance)*: - feed, fill, satisfy.
- A very strong and graphic word. Used for feeding and fattening of animals in a stall



Profile of one hungry and thirsty disciple



When shall I open my bible to hear from Him?
When shall I get on my knees to speak with Him?

When will I open my mouth to worship and Praise Him?

When will I get my discipling?

===a **good appetite for HIM**

How worshipping blesses me!

How the message challenges and lifts me!

How the fellowship of believers satisfies me!

How green is the grass on my side

How *chortazo* I am!!!

The Structure of the Be-Attitudes

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

"Blessed are the meekest, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Broken, grieving,
quiet person who
longs for
righteousness

Empty

Full

The merciful,
pure, peacemaker
who is persecuted
for righteousness

What Is the Righteousness Jesus Is Talking About?

- The word "righteousness" occurs five times in this sermon (5:6, 10, 20; 6:1, 33)
- The first four beatitudes describe the broken, grieving, mEEK person who *hungers and thirsts for righteousness*.
- And the next four beatitudes describe the merciful, pure peacemaker who gets *persecuted for his righteousness*.
- “righteousness” that with which we have been filled—namely, mercy, purity, and peace-making?

Matthew 5:20, "I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."



- The Pharisees' interpretation of righteousness, only on outer things
- Loved to put their righteousness on display (Matthew 6:1-)
- They were cold and dignified
- Like wearing a sweet smelling perfume. Its not part of you, but its on you...

So, how does our righteousness surpass that of the Pharisees??

- 5:21–24 :We must not sustain anger against a brother but seek peace.
- 5:27–28: we must not look upon a person lustfully. (**Pure**)
- 5:31–32 :We should not condone divorce just because there is a legal provision for it in the Old Testament. (**mercy**)
- 34–37: We should be the kind of people who do not need to take oaths in order to be believed. (**Pure**)
- 38–39:We should turn the other cheek and return good for evil(**peace**)
- 43–48:We should love our enemy and pray for those who persecute us. (**radically pure/mercy**)

Righteousness has to do with showing mercy, and being radically pure in your heart, and making peace instead of retaliating.

- Where do we find righteousness?
- *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness"*
- *"Seek first the kingdom" = "Hunger and thirst for righteousness."*
- When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we don't look to the broken cisterns of our own resources.
- We look to God.

How the Sermon on the Mt ends

“On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?” And then will I declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.” Matthew 7:22-23

They thought they knew him. They thought he knew them. But they were strangers

The passion, the hunger, the thirst of their lives was not righteousness. And therefore they will not be satisfied, neither in this age nor in the age to come.

- Do you plan to eat tomorrow? Then why not plan to eat righteousness?
- Do you plan to drink tomorrow? Then why not plan to drink righteousness?

Beatitude # 5: Blessedness of Mercy

Mercy (eleos) is the moral quality of feeling compassion and especially showing kindness to one in need.

The Beatitudes are presented in a definite progression and logical order

Beatitudes have to do with the way we see ourselves before God, and therefore the way we relate with fellow (wo)man



"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1. How can a heart be merciful?

Mercy comes from a heart that has first felt its spiritual bankruptcy, and has come to grief over its sin, and has learned to wait meekly for the timing of the Lord, and to cry out in hunger for the work of his mercy to satisfy it with the righteousness it needs.

2. How does Mercy look like (Matthew 9:10-13)

And as Jesus² reclined at table in the house, behold, many ^gtax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ^h“Why does your teacher eat with ^gtax collectors and sinners?” ¹² But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn ⁱwhat this means, ⁱ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For ^kI came not to call the righteous, ^lbut sinners.”

The good Samaritan



Luke 10: 25-37

What good reasons could the Priest and the Levite have for passing by?

Did they have pity on the victim?

Did they show mercy?



- This was the most public road in all Judea,
- 12,000 priests are said to have resided at Jericho
- Priest and Levite - most frequent travellers on this road.
- from the nature of their office, were most obliged to perform works of mercy;
- Deuteronomy 22:1-4
- The opposite of mercy is bondage to religious trivia.

Four Dimensions of Mercy

1. It sees distress (verse 33: "A Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and he saw him").
2. It responds internally with a heart of compassion or pity toward a person in distress (verse 33: "When he saw him, he had compassion on him").
3. It responds externally with a practical effort to relieve the distress (verse 33: "He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him").
4. It happens even when the person in distress is an enemy (verse 33: "But a Samaritan . . . "). A half-breed Jew with a warped religious tradition stops to help the Jew who hates him.

The application of Mercy

- We forgive others because we see people who have been blinded by Satan, the ‘god of this age’ (2 cor 4: 4)
- Our attitude towards others has changed, as we have genuine sorrow for our own sins
- We forgive because we have been forgiven (Matthew 6: 14-15, 18: 21-35)

- Nowhere do we imitate God more than in showing mercy
- Every day, hour, minute...we partake of His mercy
- Mercy personified, Jesus on the cross.
- We should strive to show mercy to the poor, the wretched, the guilty—it shows we are like God.
- “ Every obstinate act is a cry for mercy”
- If I am not merciful to my fellow man, there can only be one explanation: I don't understand the mercy of God