Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied, Matthew 5.6 ESV (page 809).

Important Concepts From the Text:

I. The imagery of hungering and thirsting was used throughout the Old Testament to describe desperate conditions of those in need of divine intervention.
   A. See Psalm 42.1-3; 63.1; 107.5-7; 143.6; Isaiah 55.1-2; 61; Amos 8.11.
      1. If Isaiah 61 serves as the basis for Jesus’ teaching here, could this beatitude also apply as the deep longing of the downtrodden and oppressed for God’s justice?
      2. Remember, this is the same person described as “poor” (5.3) and in “mourning” (5.4).

II. Practical considerations on hungering/thirsting in the spiritual sense:
   A. It recognizes one’s own unrighteousness
   B. It is conscious of a deep need; a desperate need
   C. It is a constant, consistent need: hunger and thirst are not passing feelings.
   D. It is deep and painful, like actual physical hunger and thirst.

III. About righteousness:
   A. The emphasis on "righteousness" is on the upright lifestyle.
   B. A desire to see God’s standards established and obeyed in every area of life.

IV. Those who hunger/thirst will be filled.
   A. God’s cause always wins, Isaiah 55.
   B. Psalm 17.15; 107.9; 132.15; 146.7; Isaiah 49.10; 65.21-22. The consummation of God’s reign means that one’s deepest needs will be met.
For Thought and Reflection

The next few questions are designed for your personal introspection. How do you know if you are hungering/thirsting after righteousness?

1. Find a Biblical example of someone who did hunger/thirst for righteousness - and was filled. Explain their story and then make comparisons to yourself.

2. Do you really see through your own false righteousness?
   a. Isaiah 64.6 - *our righteousness is as filthy rags.*
   b. Philippians 3.7-8 - *counting everything as loss.*

3. Do you allow "harmless" things take the edge off your spiritual appetite?

4. Do you discipline yourself daily in your pursuit of righteousness?

5. Do you always put yourself in places to obtain righteousness?

6. How much time do you spend with your Bible?
   a. There is power, Romans 1.16