

# MATTHEW

*Heirs of the Kingdom*

## Matthew 5:1-12

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Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

## Matthew 5:1-12

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<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

## Matthew 5:1-12

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<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

# Outline

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1. A desire for justice

2. A love for compassion

3. A heart of integrity

# 1. A desire for justice

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Matthew 5:6

# 1. A desire for justice

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“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (v. 6)

- “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.” (Luke 6:21)
- Righteousness in the Sermon (Matt. 5:10, 5:20, 6:1, 6:33)

## Jeremiah 22:1-3

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Thus says the Lord: “Go down to the house of the king of Judah and speak there this word,<sup>2</sup> and say, ‘Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, who sits on the throne of David, you, and your servants, and your people who enter these gates.<sup>3</sup> Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

# 1. A desire for justice

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“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (v. 6)

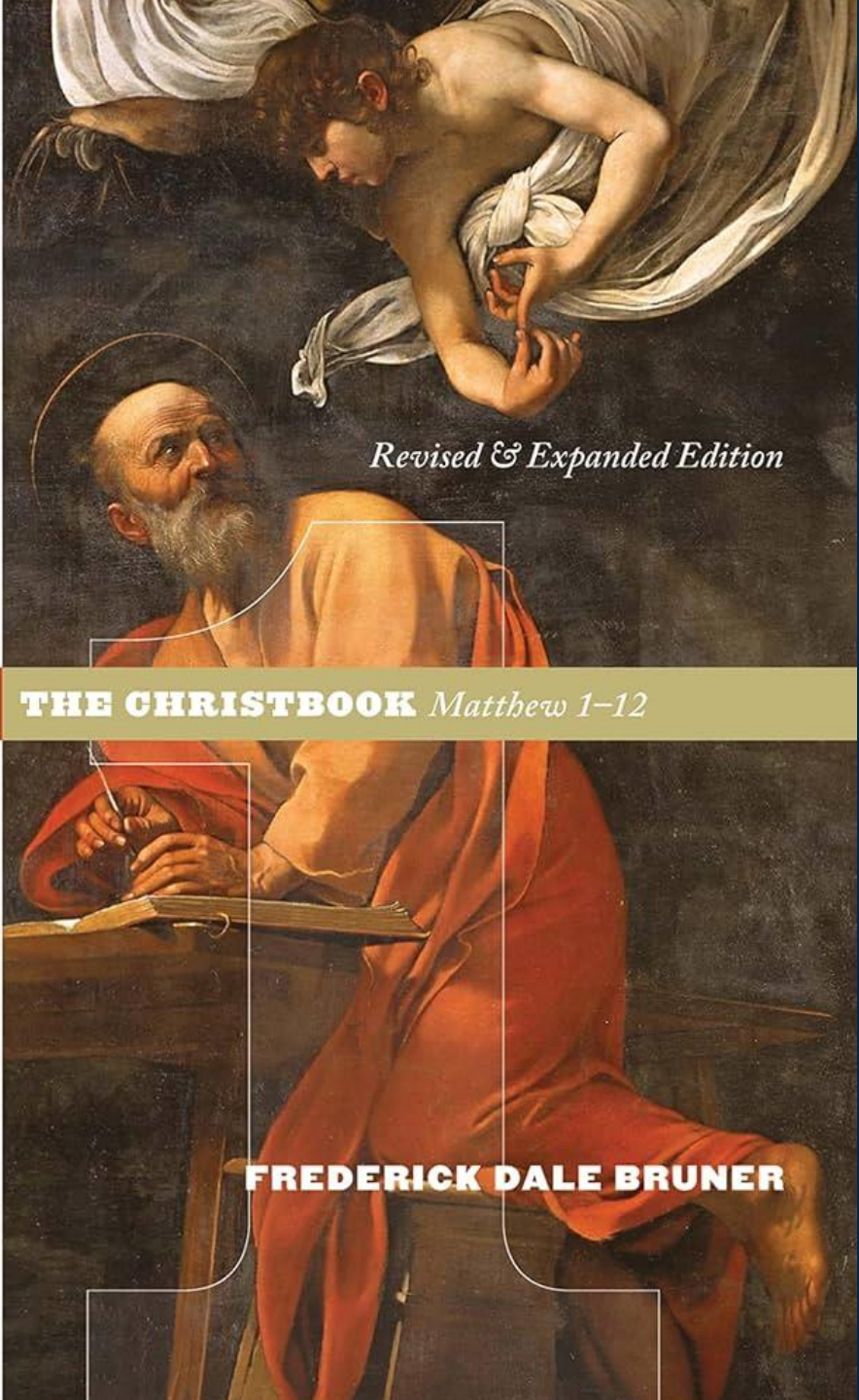
- Righteousness/Justice = right relationships
- Vertical (with God) and horizontal (with people)

# 1. A desire for justice

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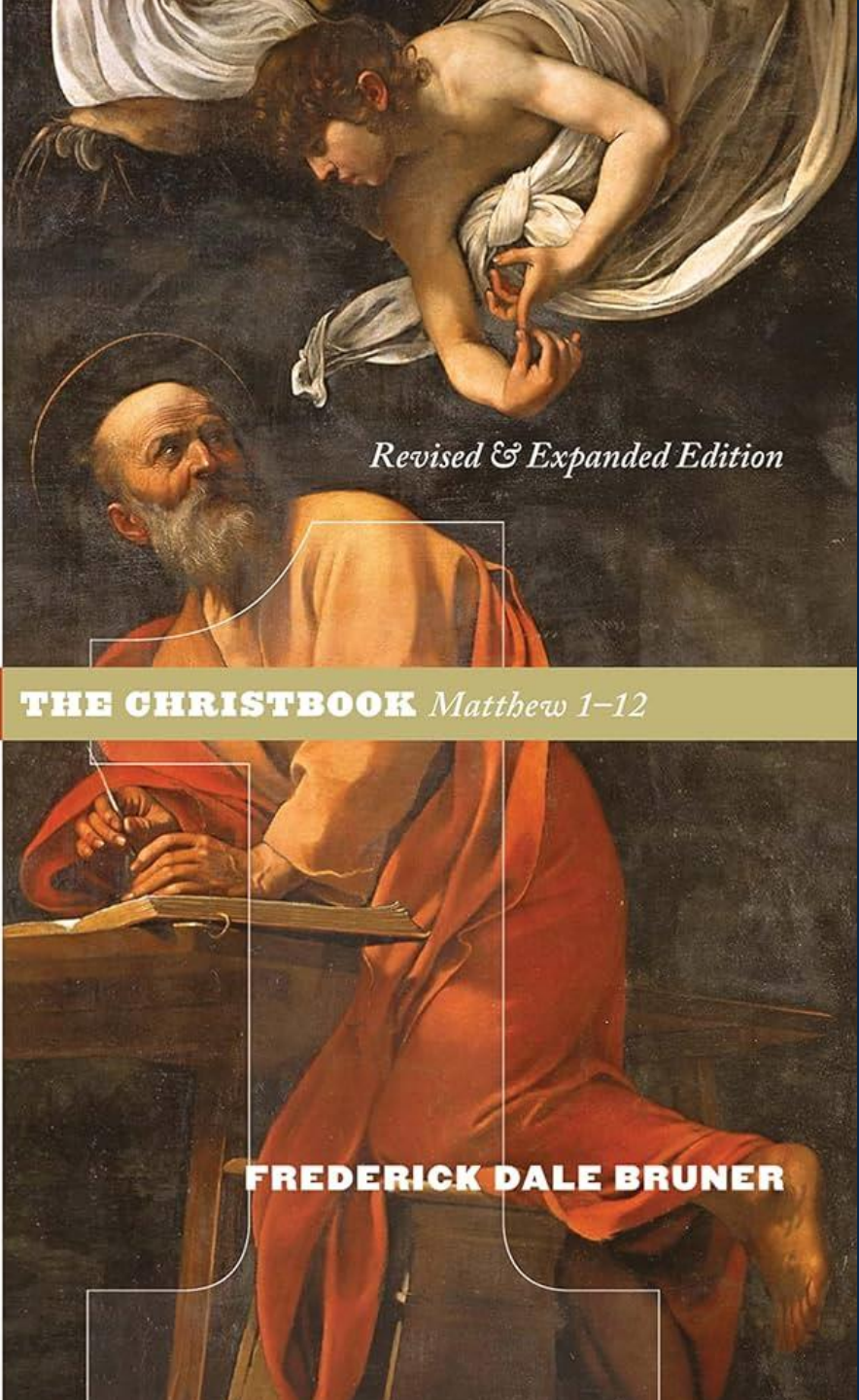
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (v. 6)

- Righteousness/Justice = right relationships
- Vertical (with God) and horizontal (with people)



The righteousness longed for in [Matthew's] Gospel is not only heaven-sent (Paul's great contribution) but also and distinctively earth-centered (Matthew's great contribution).

Paul colors righteousness sky-blue, dignifying its source; Matthew colors it earth brown, honoring its goal.



*Revised & Expanded Edition*

**THE CHRISTBOOK** *Matthew 1-12*

**FREDERICK DALE BRUNER**

**Paul the doctor of divine grace and Matthew the doctor of human mercy meet at center: in their deep appreciation for the gift of God. But one teaches in an unparalleled way that gift's source (who is God), the other that gift's aim (which is people); both are needed, both are canonical, both Christian.**

**—Frederick Dale Bruner**

# 1. A desire for justice

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“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (v. 6)

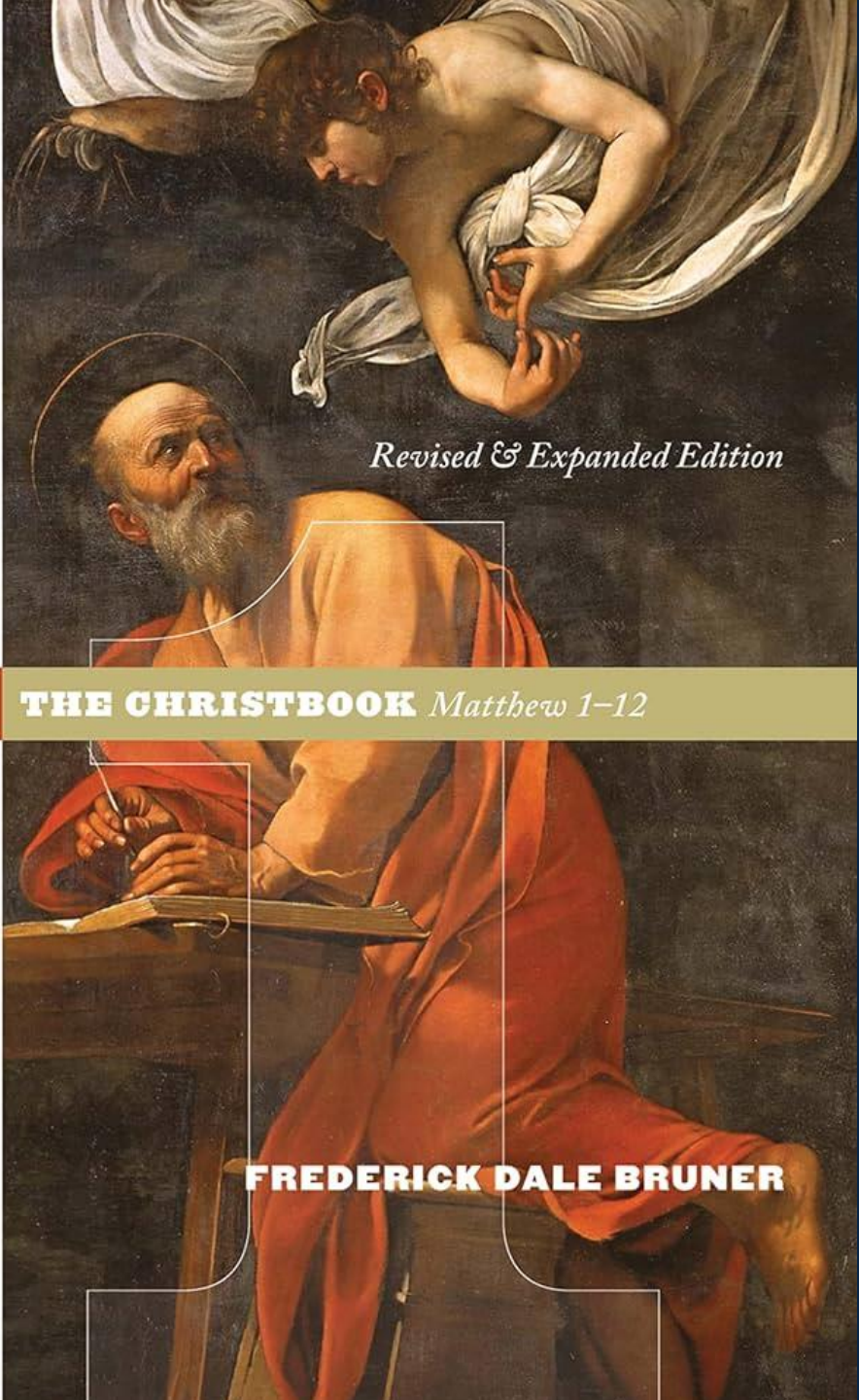
- Righteousness/Justice = right relationships
- Vertical (with God) and horizontal (with people)
- We hunger/thirst/seek for this righteousness

# 1. A desire for justice

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## Application

- Do I hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- Am I seeking righteousness from God? (Matt. 6:33)



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The Beatitudes are not to be turned into spiritual conditions that, when fulfilled, will merit God's grace. Rather, here at the opening of his sermon Jesus promises the grace of divine help to those who cannot help themselves... The hungry-for-righteousness are blessed, note well! not for a possessed but for a desired righteousness; blessed not because they are righteous, but because...they feel starved for and empty of a needed righteousness.

## Matthew 9:10-13

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

## 2. A love for compassion

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Matthew 5:7

## 2. A love for compassion

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“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” (v.7)

- Justice and mercy go together

## Matthew 23:23

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**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.**

## 2. A love for compassion

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“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” (v.7)

- Justice and mercy go together
- Mercy = compassion for those in need (see Matt. 6:1 -9:27, 15:22; 17:15; “The Good Samaritan” in Luke 10:25-37)

## Micah 6:8

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**He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness [mercy, NIV/KJV], and to walk humbly with your God?**

## 2. A love for compassion

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### Application

- Am I hard-hearted or tender-hearted?

## 2. A love for compassion

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### Application

- Am I hard-hearted or tender-hearted?
- Am I quick to forgive?

### 3. A heart of integrity

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Matthew 5:8

### 3. A heart of integrity

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“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (v.8)

- Purity = wholeness + holiness (or integrity)
- Background: Psalm 24: clean hands/pure heart/not deceitful

### 3. A heart of integrity

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“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (v.8)

- Purity = wholeness + holiness (or integrity) (see James 4:8)
- Background: Psalm 24: clean hands/pure heart/not deceitful
- Centrality of the heart in Jesus' teaching (see Matt. 12:34; 15:3, 18-20)

## Matthew 23:25-26

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**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.**

# 3. A heart of integrity

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## Application

- Am I more concerned with externals than internals?

# 3. A heart of integrity

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## Application

- Am I more concerned with externals than internals?
- Do I long for the vision of God?

# 1 John 3:2-3

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Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure

# Concluding Applications

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- a) Check your dispositions and your direction: is your heart increasingly inclined to the virtues of the kingdom?

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- a) Check your dispositions and your direction: is your heart increasingly inclined to the virtues of the kingdom?
- b) Remember that these virtues are gifts of grace not the result of self-improvement.



**This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness. Not health, but healing. Not being, but becoming. Not rest, but exercise. We're not yet what we shall be, but we are growing towards it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.**

**—Martin Luther**