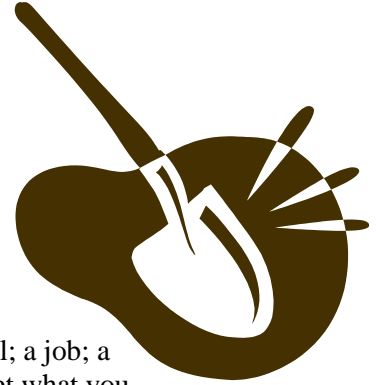


DIGGING DEEPER

Series: A Call to Arms
Sermon: **The Armor-Breastplate of Righteousness**
Scripture: Selected Scriptures



GETTING STARTED

Have you ever had an intense desire for something (e.g. getting into a certain school; a job; a relationship)? Share with group members how you felt and how you set about to get what you desired.

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Matthew 5:6. What does it mean for a person to “hunger and thirst for righteousness”?
2. Look up the following verses. What do they confirm about our moral standing in God’s eyes?
 - Isaiah 64:6
 - Romans 3:23
 - Romans 3:10-12
3. Read Matthew 5:20. Why would Jesus’ statement have been such a radical thing for Jesus’ listeners to hear?
4. From what you know of the Pharisees and the Scribes (the “teachers of the law”), what was the basis of their righteousness?
5. Underline the words in the verses below that have to do with Abraham’s faith.

ROMANS 4:3, 20-24 ³What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."...²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

6. Read Philippians 3:4-6. What was the basis of Paul’s relationship with God prior to becoming a Christian?
7. Now read Philippians 3:7-9. What changed for Paul?

APPLY IT

What are some practical steps you can take to develop a greater “hunger and thirst” for God’s righteousness?