

## The Word “Righteousness” in the Book of Matthew

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And so as to the word “righteousness.” To some it may seem trifling to notice that this word occurs frequently in *Matthew*, scarcely ever in the other Gospels. Here it is repeated again and again. “Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness,” (*Matthew 3:15*).

“Blessed are they which thirst after righteousness,” (*Matthew 5:6*). “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness:” – by the way, in *Luke* it is distinctively “reproach for the Son of Man’s sake,” (compare *Matthew 5:10* and *Luke 6:22*).

So again, “Except your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the Scribes,” (*Matthew 5:20*). So again, “Then shall the righteous shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father,” (*Matthew 13:43*). So again, “The righteous shall answer, Lord, when saw we thee an hundred?” (*Matthew 25:37*).

So again, “The righteous into life eternal,” (*Matthew 25:46*). So, where in *Luke* it is written, “That the blood of all the prophets, from the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zecharias, shall be required of this generation;” in *Matthew* we read, “From the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zacharias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar,” (compare *Luke 11:51* and *Matthew 23:35*).

So again, where in *Luke* we merely read, “Seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you;” in *Matthew* it is said, “The kingdom of God, and His righteousness,” (compare *Luke 12:31* and *Matthew 6:33*); righteousness being a special characteristic of the Lord’s kingdom.

So Paul teaches, “The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost,” (*Romans 14:17*). The Gospel of the kingdom peculiarly marks this, in its notice of “righteousness;” adding also in reference to peace, “Blessed are the peacemakers;” a beatitude only to be found in this Gospel.

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