



Who Hunger and Thirst For Righteousness

Most People Think

- Happy are the blasé, for they never worry over their sin.
- But Jesus said,
- Happy are those who long to be truly "good:" they will fully realize their ambition.

Good News

- Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires. God will satisfy them fully. (TEV)

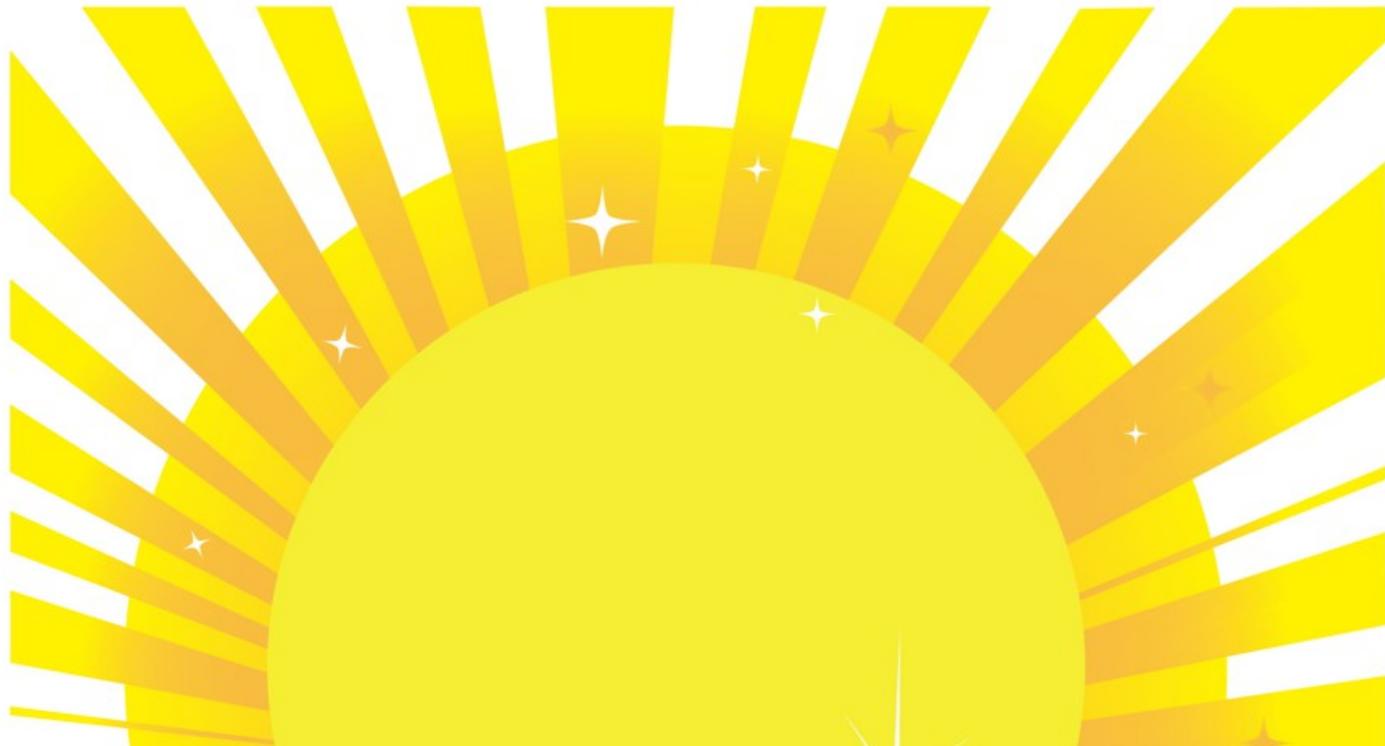


Righteousness

- "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little" -Franklin D. Roosevelt
- "Bread for myself is a physical question; bread for my neighbor is a spiritual question." --Nikolai Berdyaev

Jesus Said:

- "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father."
(Matthew 13:43)



What is Righteousness?

- Greek word means justice, doing justice
- Micah 6: 8 "What does the Lord require of thee but to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly before thy God."
- English word "rihtwis" combines "right" (morally pure) with "wise" (a method or manner of doing)

Righteousness Begins with Faith

- Romans 3: 28
- We firmly believe that people are made right with God because of their faith. They are not saved by obeying the law.



Righteousness Develops with Works

- James 2: 24
- So you see that a person is made right with God by what he does. It doesn't happen only because of what he believes.



Righteousness Comes from Peace

- James 3: 18
- Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.



Our Works Must Be Genuine

- Matthew 6
- “Be careful not to do ‘good works’ in front of others. Don’t do them to be seen by others. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you.
- ² “When you give to needy people, do not announce it by having trumpets blown. Do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They announce what they do in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to be honored by others.
- Your Father sees what you do secretly

Our Works Determine Righteousness

- Matthew 25
- ³⁷ “Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸ When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’
- ⁴⁰ “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’

We Seek God's Righteousness

- Matthew 6: 33
- Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness
- Saint Augustine
- By himself, God won't
- By ourselves, we can't
- But together with God, we can

Psalm 37 Defines Righteousness

- A way of life in which people are
- A) Generous with what they have
- Vs. 26 "They are always gracious and generous"
- B) They speak for justice
- Vs. 30 "The mouths of the righteous recite wisdom; their tongues discuss justice."

Doing Good

- C) A way of life of people who seek to do good on behalf of others
- Vs. 27 Turn away from evil. Do good!



Hunger and Thirst

- Jesus did not say
- Blessed are those who "hope" for righteousness
- Or "Want" righteousness
- Or "Dream for" righteousness
- Or "Campaign for" righteousness
- Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for righteousness

A Deep Desire—An Urgency

- “People who want what is right as urgently as a person in the desert wants a glass of water or a child in a refugee camp cries desperately for a crust of bread.” --Jim Forest

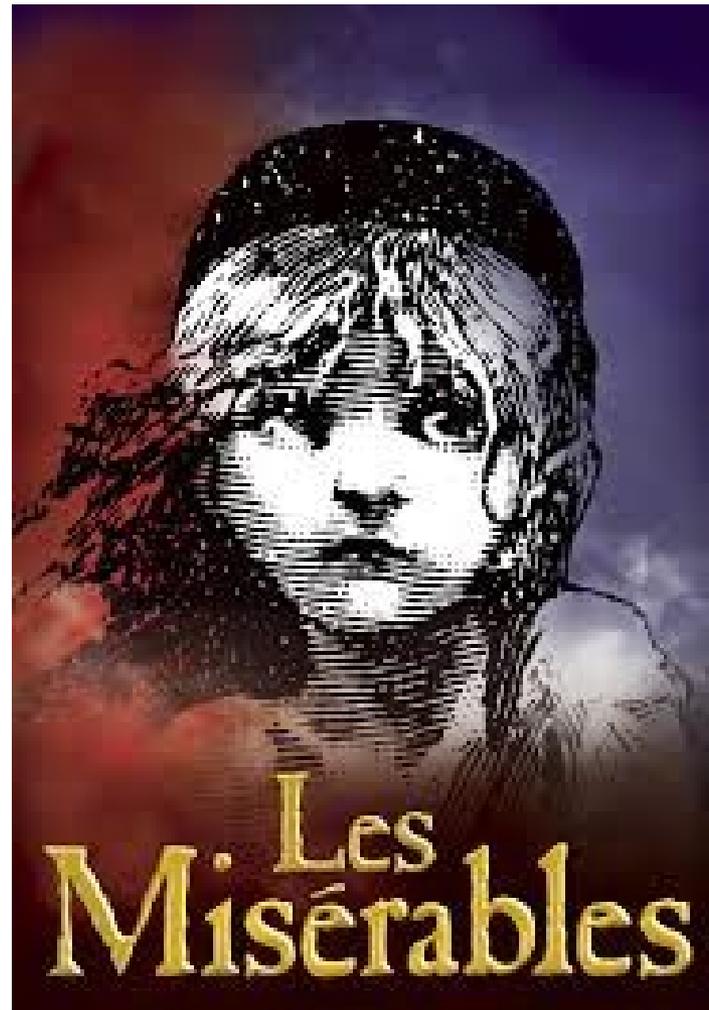
Saint John Chrysostom



Chrysostom = Golden Tongue

- He defines righteousness as "that particular virtue which is opposed to covetousness."
- "What good is it if the Communion table is overloaded with golden chalices when your brother is dying of hunger? Start by satisfying his hunger and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well."

A Story of Righteousness



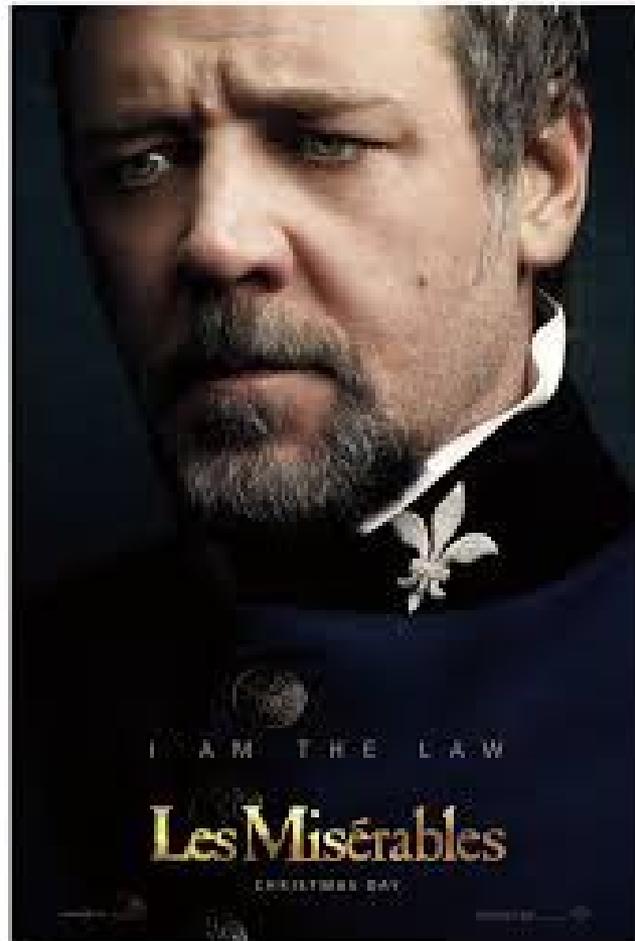
Jean Valjean



Hunger

- Jean Valjean steals a loaf of bread to feed his sister's starving children
- He struggles to survive in a society better organized to punish than to help
- The social order is personified in the relentless and heartless Inspector Javert

The Inspector



The Path of the Righteous

- **He knows his way in the dark
Mine is the way of the Lord
And those who follow the path of the
righteous
Shall have their reward
And if they fall
As Lucifer fell
The flame
The sword!**

Bishop Myriel



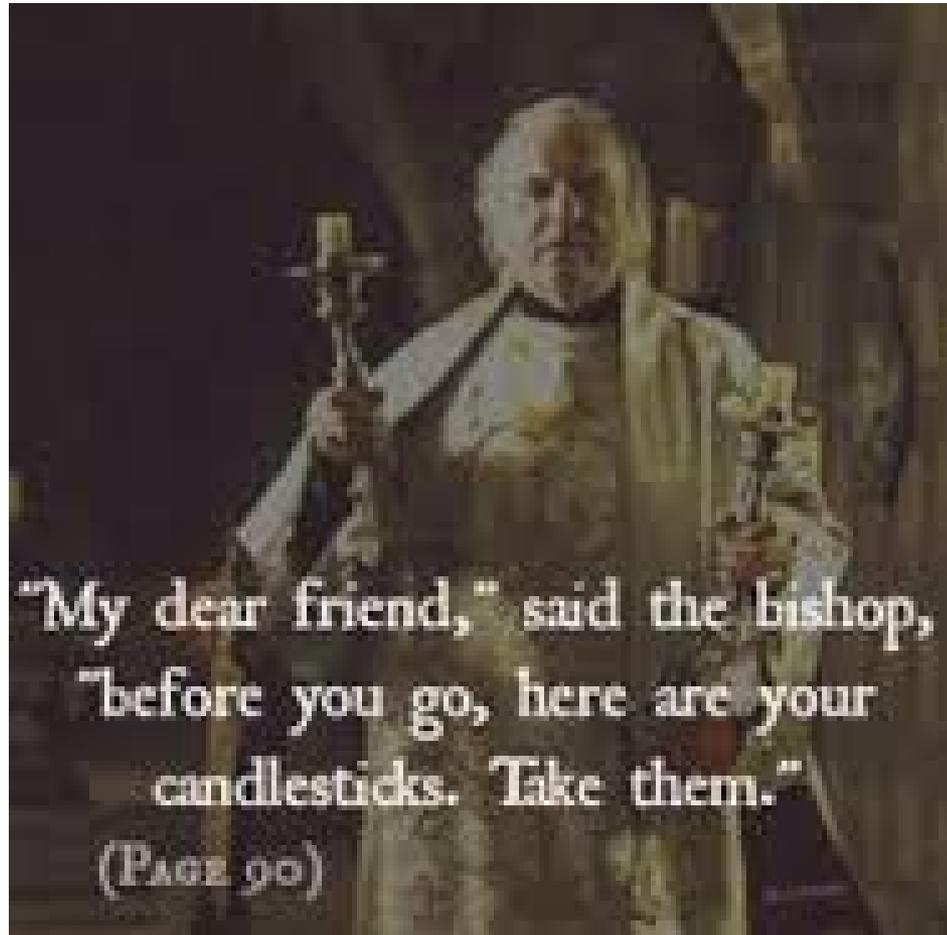
The Bishop's Philosophy

- The sadness which reigned everywhere was but an excuse for unfailing kindness. Love each other; he declared this to be complete, desired nothing further, and that was the whole of his doctrine.

The Encounter

- Jean Valjean shows up at his door
- The Bishop takes him in, feeds him, and gives him a place to sleep
- Valjean steals the Bishop's silver and is quickly apprehended by the authorities
- The Bishop demonstrates mercy by saying he gave the silver to Valjean and chastises him for not taking the candlesticks also.

The Candlesticks



"My dear friend," said the bishop,
"before you go, here are your
candlesticks. Take them."

(PAGE 90)

His Act of Mercy

- He explains that his act of mercy was for a greater cause
- He instructs Valjean to use the silver to become an honest man
- He has bought Valjean's soul for God

The Bishop's Righteousness

- But remember this, my brother
See in this some higher plan
You must use this precious silver
To become an honest man
By the witness of the martyrs
By the Passion and the Blood
God has raised you out of darkness
I have bought your soul for God!

Can Such Things Be?

- Yet why did I allow that man
To touch my soul and teach me love?
He treated me like any other
He gave me his trust
He called me brother
My life he claims for God above
Can such things be?
For I had come to hate the world
This world that always hated me

Several Kinds of Hunger

- The urgent physical hunger of children in a world hostile to the poor
- The loving hunger of Jean Valjean for the lives and well-being of his nieces and nephews and later for Fantine who entrusts her daughter, Cosette to him
- The prophetic hunger for righteousness, freedom and a compassionate social order

Victor Hugo--Quotes

- "Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise."
- "Not being heard is no reason for silence."
- "Those who do not weep, do not see."
- "You who suffer because you love, love still more. To die of love, is to live by it."
- "To love another person is to see the face of God."

Yad Vashem

- "And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (a "yad vashem")... that shall not be cut off."
 - (Isaiah, chapter 56, verse 5)
- As the Jewish people's living memorial to the Holocaust, Yad Vashem safeguards the memory of the past and imparts its meaning for future generations

The Righteous Among the Nations



Nazi Germany

- In the darkest days of World War II, the Nazi German regime reigned supreme over virtually all of Europe. Within these occupied lands, Jews were being rounded up and sent off to extermination camps for execution. Helping them escape was punishable by death.

Ordinary People

- In this dark and seemingly hopeless situation, hundreds of ordinary people risked all to shelter and smuggle Jews to safety. These were generally not organized efforts, simply moral people who reacted in horror to the fate of innocent neighbors and took action. Thousands of Jews were rescued in this way.

Severe Punishment

- The price that rescuers had to pay for their action differed from one country to another. In Eastern Europe, the Germans executed not only the people who sheltered Jews, but their entire family as well. Notices warning the population against helping the Jews were posted everywhere.

Sheltering the Jews

- **In the rural areas in Eastern Europe hideouts or bunkers, as they were called, were dug under houses, cowsheds, barns, where the Jews would be concealed from sight. Jews were also hidden in attics, hideouts in the forest, and in any place that could provide shelter and concealment, such as a cemetery, sewers, animal cages in a zoo, etc. Sometimes the hiding Jews were presented as non-Jews, as relatives or adopted children. Jews were also hidden in apartments in cities, and children were placed in convents with the nuns concealing their true identity.**

Other Forms

- Providing false papers and false identities
- Smuggling and assisting Jews to escape
- The rescue of children
- Friedrich Born and Raoul Wallenberg

Friedrich Born

- Red Cross of Switzerland
- Arrived in Budapest in May 1944
- Issued thousands of Red Cross letters of protection to Jews
- Housed over 7,000 children
- Credited with saving between 11,000 - 15,000 Jews in Budapest

Raoul Wallenberg

- Recruited by the US War Refugee Board (WRB) in June 1944 to travel to Hungary. Given status as a diplomat by the Swedish legation, Wallenberg's task was to do what he could to assist and save Hungarian Jews.
- Arrived in July, 1944

Rescuing the Perishing

- He used WRB and Swedish funds to establish hospitals, nurseries and a soup kitchen, and to designate more than 30 "safe" houses that together formed the core of the "international ghetto" in Budapest. The international ghetto was reserved for Jews and their families holding certificates of protection from a neutral country.

October 1944

- **As Soviet troops had already cut off rail transport routes to Auschwitz, Hungarian authorities forced tens of thousands of Budapest Jews to march west to the Hungarian border with Austria. During the autumn of 1944, Wallenberg repeatedly—and often personally—intervened to secure the release of those with certificates of protection or forged papers, saving as many people as he could from the marching columns.**

A New Oppressor

- When Soviet forces liberated Budapest in February 1945, more than 100,000 Jews remained, mostly because of the efforts of Wallenberg and Born. Wallenberg was last seen in the company of Soviet officials in mid-January 1945. He reportedly died in a Soviet prison in 1947.

Righteous Among the Nations



Do You Hear the People Sing

**“Do you hear the people sing
Lost in the valley of the night?
It is the music of a people
Who are climbing to the light.**

**For the wretched of the earth
There is a flame that never dies.
Even the darkest night will end
And the sun will rise.”**

Shall Be Satisfied

