

Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Matthew 5:6

⁶ *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."*

- Jesus says those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be satisfied... he's talking about contentment, he's talking about rest for our souls, happiness.
- How to find contentment, happiness, satisfaction is the goal of every human being on the planet... many look for it in success, or family, or romantic relationships, or wealth or even as simple as avoiding pain and suffering.
- Jesus, once again, in turning the world right side up tells us that the satisfaction we seek will only be obtained by those that hunger and thirst for righteousness.

BIG IDEA:

Christ reorders the appetites of his followers.

- Before we were brought to life through regeneration our hearts longed for all kinds of things:
 - o Pursuit of pleasure defined many of our lives and we sought pleasure in all the wrong places.
 - o Pursuit of knowledge defined some of us and we thought we could figure out what would bring happiness by accumulating knowledge.
 - o Pursuit of experience and thrill, desire for higher purpose, success, wealth, fame.
- *So the natural question to ask becomes: what do you hunger and thirst for?*

Isaiah 55:2-3:

*Why do you spend your money
for that which is not bread,
and your labor*

for that which does not satisfy?

*Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in abundance.*

*Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear that your soul may live.*

John Piper:

Many of you here this morning are like this. Your soul is hungry and your heart is thirsty. You feel an insatiable longing for something. You are restless. Almost everywhere you turn, the grass is greener than where you stand. And the great tragedy for some of you is that even though this is the Spirit of God beckoning you to himself, you turn away again and again to short-run, temporary, backfiring pleasures of R-rated video cassettes or movies, or drugs or alcohol or tanning parlors or a new toy.

John Piper (con't)

And everything turns to ashes in your hands. The thrill of lust leaves the sediment of guilt and loneliness. The drugs and alcohol can't keep you from waking up in the real world again and again with your messed-up relationships. The tan looks so artificial and fades so quickly. And the new toy is so boring in just a few weeks.

And we eat bread which does not satisfy. And the words of C.S. Lewis ring more and more true. He said,

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

- Lazarus – he was totally dead, not mostly dead, totally, utterly dead... so were we, and when we were brought to life by grace we became something new entirely.
- As a new creation, our desires changed, our longings changed – Christ reordered them, set them straight so that our hearts now long for relationship with our God.
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What to Know:

1. Longing for righteousness is a result of becoming poor in spirit.

- Once again Jesus is speaking of something that makes no sense to the non-Christians, the crowd.
- Righteousness to them was something they mustered up... follow the law, be righteous... being filled with righteousness is a new concept.
- Christ was saying that righteousness is not obtainable without it being given to us...
- A cup full of vinegar can't be full of water also, it has to be emptied... poorness of spirit empties us, it causes us to mourn over our sinfulness before God, it causes us to be meek towards other and it allows us to be filled.

2. The righteousness longed for is in fact Christ's own.

- We don't hunger or thirst for righteousness for righteousness' sake... righteousness is the means by which we get what we truly desire, that is Christ Himself... a relationship with God.

Psalm 42:1

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God

WHAT TO DO:

1. Be convinced that only Christ can truly satisfies.

John 4:13-15

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

- Are you satisfied? Do you look satisfied?
- When you need rest, relaxation, a recharge... what do you do?
- Is Christian discipline a chore or a joy?
- Don't settle for knowing Christ, see Him AND savor Him!
- The ironic thing about the Christian life is that it must be experienced in order to be enjoyed. It is while running the race of faith you fall in love with your running partner.

2. Give up what you desire most so that Christ will give you what you need the most.

- Whatever you're chasing... whatever you are longing to fill your life... it will ultimately lead to ruin and misery because it is rooted in your self.
- Happiness is found outside of yourself... it is found in being awakened to the true meaning of our existence, that is to Glorify God and enjoy him forever.
- Nothing else satisfies, the bible describes everything else as “a chasing after the wind.”
- Your problem is similar to a problem I had when I didn't know that I loved pumpkin pie because I had never tried it.
- Ask God to reorder your desires, ask him to create in you're a desire for Him and you will see what truly brings lasting joy.