

Blessed are the Hungry & Thirsty



In a natural and spiritual flow of the Beatitudes we move from realizing how we are ruined spiritually, to mourning over that condition, to emptying ourselves of self, to longing to be right with God. The fourth beatitude takes us to God. It is that desire to be right with God.

- This is the last beatitude in our relationship with the Lord. The remaining five beatitudes are built around our relationship with others.
- Here, Jesus uses two common _____ that the audience understood: hunger and thirst

Jesus understood hunger:

Matthew 4:1-2 "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry."

From the youngest to the oldest, hunger is a feeling that is understood

For the audience that heard Jesus, real hunger and begging were very common

- think of Lazarus, longing for the crumbs from the rich man's table (Lk 16:21)

When you and I claim to be hungry, we have only been without food for a short period of time

A. This beatitude is based upon a desire and a longing for God. Here is a person who wants to be right.

- it is for "righteousness" that he hungers and thirsts. Only God can declare one to be "right."

1. This Godly desire is a "hunger and a thirst" - it is a deep longing that gnaws at us until it is fulfilled

Many of our Hymns Reflect this Desire to Be Close to God:

- More, more about Jesus
- Let me walk close to Thee
- Draw me nearer, still nearer
- Nearer my God to Thee

- that's the way that hunger works

- Ps 42:1-2a "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God..."
- Ps 63:1 "O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; my soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."
- Luke 1:53 "He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed."
- John 4:13-14 "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."
- John 6:35 "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."
- Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."
- Revelation 7:16-17 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

B. Solomon's Ecclesiastical experience shows that many people try to fill that gnawing with things that do not satisfy

- when hungry we can fill ourselves up on junk food. It may stop the hunger pains for the moment but it does not nourish and bring lasting enrichment

- _____ is a spiritual junk food: "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
- _____ is a spiritual junk food: "choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin" (Heb 11:25)
- _____ is a spiritual junk food: "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

1. Junk food always leaves a person wanting _____. It does not satisfy.
2. Spiritual junk food hides the real issues of a _____ relationship with God.

C. To be Righteous is to be:

- F _____ by God
- A _____ by God
- I _____ and used by God

2 Cor 5:9 "Therefore we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him"

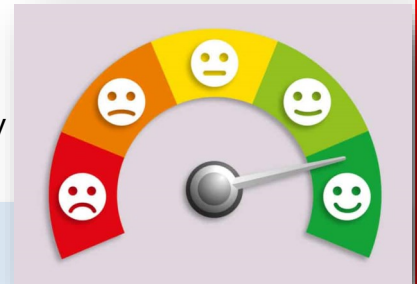
Mt 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."

- Ps 34:8 "O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."
- 1 Peter 2:3 "If you have tasted the kindness of the Lord"

1. Satisfied: filled, longing for nothing else

We might use the expression, "Stuffed." Or, "Can't eat another bite."

When a person is not satisfied, they are unhappy. They complain. They are looking for more.



- This is the person who sits at the end of worship and wishes that we could _____ on
- This is the person who is concerned about his _____ that he portrays to others. He thinks about his modesty, his attitude, his speech, his conduct
- This is the person who is more interested in what God _____ than what others say
- This is the person who drinks _____ from the word of God
- This is the person who thinks about _____ often
- This is the person who prays _____ and often
- This is the person who is not _____ to be known as a Christian
- This is the person who is _____ in the kingdom. He is busy encouraging, inviting, teaching, sharing and showing
- This is the person who finds _____ in singing hymns, talking about the Bible and helping others
- This is the person who loves to be around God's _____
- This is a person who is more concerned about his _____ with God than what others are doing
- This is the person who longs to be _____ God

Gen 25:8 "And Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people."

- Not everything was _____ for Abraham
- He did not always get his _____
- He had to _____ God
- He died satisfied because he _____ God