

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFE

Hungry and Thirsty

TEXT: Mt. 5:6

INTRODUCTION: **Mt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.**

- A. Our whole world seeks for happiness. Many seek it in things of the world, only to be greatly disappointed.
- B. Many Christians seek happiness. They seek it in some great experience, another conference, another meeting... they too are disappointed.

The Beatitudes tell how to get happiness but never enjoin us to seek it.

- **Happiness is a by-product.**
- **Not found by looking, but produced by obeying.**

Jesus says how happy are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

Want happiness beyond the world's pleasures and joy beyond mortal things?
Then this is for you.

4 questions arise out of Jesus' statement:

1. **What does it mean to hunger and thirst?**
2. **What is promised to those who hunger and thirst?**
3. **How do I know if I am hungry and thirsty?**
4. **How can I build a spiritual appetite?**

We will only consider the first question this morning.

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HUNGER AND THIRST?

A. A Physical Picture

Most of us are not acquainted with real hunger and thirst.

Hunger for us is a desire to eat at 11:45 and the preacher is still going at noon.

Thirst for us is the sensation of desire for a big gulp of coke after a bag of salty popcorn.

But words are stronger than that.

Peinao – to be in great need of food. To suffer deep hunger such as is pictured 2 Kings 7 –

To be really hungry is to be like the citizens of Samaria when Ben Hadad blockaded the place; and food ran out, so people were bidding enormous sums of money on small baskets of dove's dung and the head of a donkey.

Real hunger is when a guy would even eat broccoli and cheese!

Real hunger is when you crave what you hate to eat most.

Real hunger is an intensity of desire that yields a singleness of purpose.

- **A hungry man wants food.**
 - not food and clothes
 - not food and shelter
 - not food and anything
- **Just food!**

And the thirst Jesus is describing is at the same level. The stomach cries and aches for nourishment and the throat and tongue, perhaps unable to produce a sound, yet offer silent screams

But we are given the physical picture to allow us to understand

B. The Spiritual Truth

That is the desire God wants us to have for righteousness.

**An all-consuming,
preoccupying,
overwhelming,
driving
want, no, a compulsion.**

1. Such was Moses

Burning bush, 10 plagues, Red Sea, Water, Manna
Sinai – 10 Commandments, Tabernacle

He knew God so well – God talked with him like a friend

Yet after receiving the laws and knowing more of God than any man ever had he cried out to the Lord –

Ex. 33:13, 18 ¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in

Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.”

Moses, you have so much. “I want more.”

Moses, you are so filled. “I want more.”

The Scripture says in Ex. 34:29 that Moses’ face shone with the glory of God when he came off of Mt. Sinai back down to the camp of Israel.

Did you know that this is the basis for Michelangelo’s famous sculpture of Moses with horns? This resulted from a misunderstanding of Jerome’s translation of the Old Testament Hebrew into Latin, and for a period of time, these erroneous depictions of Moses with horns were not uncommon; but the source for it all was the very true fact that Moses so hungered and thirsted for the righteousness of God, that God filled him with His own glory that shone out of his servant Moses.

2. David

“Man after God’s own heart”

Wrote

Ps. 23 The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name’s sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever.

Ps. 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks,

So pants my soul for You, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

Ps. 63:1 O God, You *are* my God;
 Early will I seek You;
 My soul thirsts for You;
 My flesh longs for You
 In a dry and thirsty land
 Where there is no water.

3. Paul
 3 visions of Jesus
 Acts 9:3-9
 Acts 18:9-10
 2 Cor. 12:1-4

Paul saw such great ecstasy like man had never known, yet he said,

Phil. 3:8, 10 ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

John Darby, founder of Plymouth Brethren movement said, **“When the prodigal son was hungry he ate with pigs. When the prodigal son was starved he went to the father.”**

Jesus is saying

Blessed are those who are starving and dying of thirst to the degree that it produces a driving passion and a singleness of purpose within them.

II. WHAT IS THE PROPER OBJECT OF THAT DESIRE?

- A. Depth of desire is not enough. Must have proper object.

Lucifer – passionate desire for power – “exalt my throne above most high”

Nebuchadnezzar – craving for praise – “become mad like ox”

Rich fool – yearning for possessions – “today thy soul is required of thee”

You say, “I am a person of great ambition and desire and longing. I can focus my attention on one thing and desire it above all else.”

Fine. But be sure you desire the right thing. **What is to be so passionately desired?**

B. RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Now what is it really?

GK - dikiosune

1. 3 uses

- a. **Legal – to stand in right relationship to God – justification**
- b. **Moral – to live in fellowship with God – sanctification**
- c. **Social – to live with man according to the way of God – sanctification**

Because of diversity of meaning here there is a diverse application

- 1) To those who aren't sure they are going to heaven, instruction on how to get in.

Poor in spirit – recognize emptiness

Mourn – repent

Meek – can't do it yourself

Hunger and thirst – desire to be right with God thru Christ, Our Righteousness.

By His death and resurrection, He took your place so that you can be legally right with God.

Eph. 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- 2) To those who by faith in Christ are legally righteous, Jesus says now the way to live right and have fellowship is to continually hunger and thirst for holiness, for more of Him – to desire to be more like Him.

- a) **Happy children of the kingdom never feel like they have arrived.** Now to be sure they have assurance of salvation, but they are never found to feel like they are as holy, righteous, virtuous, or pure as they need to be. There is a continual and ever-increasing hunger to be more like Jesus.

Phil. 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, no matter how much we pray, we want to pray more.

Read Word, want to read more

Witness, want to witness more

Learn, want to learn more

Grow, want to grow more

Have faith, want to have more faith
 Obey, want to obey more
 Love, want to love more

- b) May I take you deep into the Greek language of these words for just a minute to show you something really cool?

If a person who spoke Greek fluently were to translate the English words of Mt 5:6 back into Greek, without reference to the way it is written in the Bible, he would use what is known in the Greek language as the partitive genitive.

What this means is that in Greek you would not normally say I am hungry for food. You would say, I am hungry for “of food.” I am thirsty for “of water.” This is because even though you are starving, you don’t want all the food in the world, you just want part of it. Even though you are parched, you don’t want to be drowned with water, you just want part of it.

But what Jesus said cannot be expressed with the Greek of the partitive genitive. The textual form is the accusative, which means **hunger and thirst for righteousness – all of it!**

Desire does not stop until we have it all. Until we are like Him!

- c) **Emphasis here is not on arriving, but desiring.** Not “happy are those who reach level 7 on a spiritual scale of 1 to 10”

Happy are those who want to go up, who desire, who hunger, who thirst.

CONCLUSION: How about you?

Can you sing

More of You
 More of You
 I’ve had it all
 But what I need is more of You
 Of things I’ve had my fill
 And yet I hunger still
 Empty and bare, Lord hear my prayer
 For more of You!

Is that what you want? It’s what I want.