

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFE

What Happens to Those who Hunger and Thirst?

TEXT: Mt. 5:6 and Mt. 6:33

Mt. 5:3-5 “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

⁵ Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

Oh how happy are the humble, those who acknowledge their brokenness before God.

Oh how deep the joy is found in those who grieve over their own sin, and who repent and confess it to the Lord.

What soul satisfaction is found in those who have their strength under control.

Oh the happinesses of these because

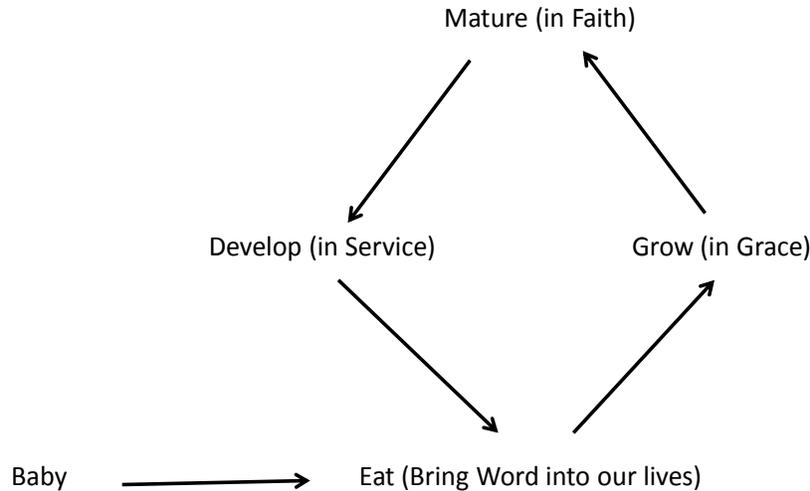
- **The humble and broken enter the Kingdom of Heaven.**
- **Those who mourn over their sin with repentance and confession are comforted by their release from guilt.**
- **And the whole earth belongs to those with their strength under control.**

And today we came to the fourth of the beatitudes of Jesus.

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

INTRODUCTION:

Physical Development



Spiritual Development is the same.

Spiritual hunger is important for it prompts us to eat spiritual food and continue the process.

We often think that if we cease eating spiritually that our growth is arrested or stopped and we just wait at that point in our development until we hunger and eat again.

But is that what happens physically? If a child stops eating properly and barely takes in enough to stay alive and then after a year suddenly has the right diet again, does he pick up right where he left off? No.

Neither do we spiritually.

Failure to grow is not a mere interruption or suspension of things. It introduces deterioration, regression, and disease.

Is. 55:2 Why do you spend money for *what is not bread*,
 And your wages for *what does not satisfy*?
 Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is good*,
 And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

Jer. 2:13 “For My people have committed two evils:
 They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,
 And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

People, **we will hunger and thirst for something.**

- Something will be our inspiration, driving force, and desire.
- **If we do not desire the Bread of Life, we will seek that “which is not bread.”**
- **If we do not yearn for Living Water, our heart will crave a drink from broken cisterns.**

Spiritual life is like a bike going up a hill. Keep it moving and you go higher and higher. Put it in neutral and you start back down.

Paul identifies **3 kinds of people: Natural, Carnal, Spiritual**

Natural – statement of position – in Christ vs. Natural man

Carnality vs. Spirituality is not positional. It is directional. What’s happening right now? What direction are you going?

So before I answer, “What happens to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,” see what happens to those who do not.

What happens to those who do not hunger and thirst after righteousness?

**They deteriorate,
lose ground,
become carnal.**

What happens when you do?

What happens when you hunger and thirst after righteousness?

I. YOU ARE FILLED.

A. Filled is a better translation than “satisfied” in the ESV.

The word is chortazo which is a verb made from the noun “grass.”

It means to fill up an animal with hay or and the farmers used to say “to fodder up the cows.”

Now it implies satisfaction in terms of immediate sensation but not satisfaction in terms of permanent complacency. A steer who has been filled is satisfied until the next day when another feeding is due.

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

B. Notice the promise is, “They shall be filled.”

No ifs, ands, or buts. This has several implications.

- One for me is a burden and the other is comfort.
- For you one is comfort and the other is a burden.

1. Listen... every day as your pastor I have a great sense of responsibility for feeding the flock, for leading you to fresh pasture. To be sure that the weeds of heresy and imbalanced truth are plucked from the field before I send you in to graze.

The more you hunger and thirst, the greater becomes my responsibility to help feed. And if I do not or if I become a barrier to the feeding and growth of the spiritually hungry, God has said, "they shall be filled." And He might remove me.

2. But there's an equally heavy implication for all of us. God says, "they shall be filled," if they hunger and thirst. **There is only one barrier to spiritual growth that you have to remove. There is only one step to spiritual growth that you have to take. "Hunger and thirst after righteousness!"** If you do, God will handle the rest. Do you realize what that means?

**No pastor can keep you from being filled.
No Lifechange Group teacher can keep you from being filled.
No other Christian can keep you from being filled.
No circumstance can keep you from being filled.**

**Only one person can keep you from being filled,
and that is YOU
by not hungering and thirsting for righteousness.**

**Pr. 27:7 A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb,
But to a hungry soul every bitter thing *is* sweet.**

When you're full of the world's food

- that which is not bread
- and water from broken cisterns that does not satisfy
- pride, position, possessions, pleasures...

and you are not hungry and thirsty for righteousness, God's truth, as sweet as honey, can be ladled onto a plate in front of you and you will loathe it, despise it (literally tread it under foot).

But when you're really hungry, the worst Lifechange Group lesson, the worst sermon, the worst devotion, can be tossed casually past you and you will grab it and search it out and pull out the edible part and delight your soul therein.

Friend, God promises, if you hunger and thirst... you will be filled.

II. IF YOU HUNGER AND THIRST YOU WILL HUNGER AND THIRST AGAIN.

Remember this is a cycle, not a linear progression. You will be filled but the filling leads to fresh desire.

I have never eaten my wife's lemon pie that I did not desire more. I was filled, but it was so good and sweet that my taste buds cried for another shot. "That tastes like some more."

That's what it's like when we our hungering and thirsting is filled by the Bread of Life and Living Water. It is so sweet and good that you want more and more.
(Remember Moses, David, Paul)

III. YOU WILL BE BLESSED.

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

This is the promise of the beatitude and later in the Sermon on the Mount, of which the Beatitudes is the first part.

Mt. 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

You know what most of us say to God by our lifestyles?

**"God I'm busy taking care of the things about my life:
my food,
my clothes,
my wellbeing,
my pleasure.
Lord I'll tend to me. You take care of the kingdom."**

The attitude of this beatitude says

**"Lord I give my attention to Your kingdom.
I desire and seek Your righteousness above all else.
Since I am totally preoccupied with that, I trust You to take
care of my needs."**

Seek first His righteousness... all these things will be added to you.
Wow, what a promise!