

06-01-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:6

Title: Hunger and Thirst

**Matthew 5:3-6**

*3 "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 gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.*

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

Beginning of the Sermon on the Mount

Chapter 5 – 7

Introduction of the King's kingdom

This is Jesus' kingdom

Begins w/ word blessed – happiness

This is the way to true happiness

Only comes by being part of Jesus' kingdom

Not at all what the people thought then

Nor do we think this way now

Happiness comes from seeing our spiritual poverty

Happiness comes from mourning over sin

Happiness comes from being meek/gentle

Today – happiness comes from being hungry

# Hungers

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Many kinds of hunger...

Today, potluck – smelling good food

Good illustration for today

Hungry through the whole sermon

Many hungers in our lives

Some are good, ok to have

Others, especially when out of control,  
are not good

Some hunger for change, for money, for love, for  
power, meaning, hungry for more...

Hungering for food and water are necessary

We must eat and we must have water to live

Jesus puts righteousness on the list with food and  
water – actually more necessary than either

Our physical life depends on food and water

Our spiritual life depends on righteousness

We all have the physical hunger for food and water

We also have spiritual hunger for God

It is not often felt as acutely as physical hunger

Still it is there...

It can more easily be seen in a life, than felt

We see it by our search for things

Things to make us happy  
Things to fulfill us  
Things to satisfy us

Our lives are actually filled w/ a search for these things  
Only God can ever fill this hunger, this thirst

Question is asked in **Isaiah 55:2**

*2 "Why do you spend money for what is not bread,  
And your wages for what does not satisfy?"*

Jesus offered Himself as the bread of life

He offered Himself as the living water

**Jeremiah 2:13**

*13 "For My people have committed two evils:  
They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters,  
To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns  
That can hold no water.*

God has made us w/ a hunger and thirst for Himself  
We often refuse Him who is the Bread of Life

As we begin this verse today – think about what you  
are hungry for...

Is it power, riches, pleasure...

How are you seeking to fulfill these desires?

Are you feeding on the husks of the pigs?

Are you looking to the only real source?

What are you hungry for?

Those in the kingdom should be hungry for  
righteousness

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men  
are created equal, that they are endowed by their  
Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among  
these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*

Pursuit of happiness...

What are you pursuing?

We can pursue happiness...

How often is happiness found?

Often sought in the wrong way

Try to find happiness through pleasure,  
through money, through material things

Happiness is found when we see who we really are,  
when we mourn over that, when we are gentle and  
when we seek after righteousness

When we seek after God we are filled

We inherit the earth

We are comforted

We are satisfied

Isn't that what we wanted in the 1<sup>st</sup> place

When we seek God – that is what we get

Only when we seek God

### **Matthew 6:33**

Seek His righteousness

Hunger and thirst after it

It will all be yours

## Hunger and thirst

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Most of us don't experience real hunger or real thirst

Hungry for us – I usually eat at 12:30 and it's 1:30

I'm hungry

Haven't had a drink for a while, it's really "hot"

outside – I'm so thirsty...

In the day when Jesus wrote this

Hunger and thirst, the real thing, were common

The idea in this verse is to be desperate

Ever go a day or more w/o food?

How about 6 hours w/o water?

You get kind of desperate feeling

I have to have s. to eat, s. to drink

*During the British liberation of Palestine in World War I... Driving up from Beersheba, a combined force of British, Australians and New Zealanders were close behind the Turkish retreat over arid desert. The attack*

*got ahead of its water carrying camel train. The water bottles were empty, the sun blazed brightly in a sky where the vultures wheeled about. Their heads ached their eyes became bloodshot and dim in the blinding glare. Their tongues began to swell. Their lips turned to a purplish black and begin to burst.*

*Those who dropped out of the column were never seen again, the rest struggled on to Sheria. There were wells at Sheria and had they been unable to take the place by nightfall, thousands were doomed to die of thirst. They entered Sheria's station on the heels of the retreating Turks. The first objects which met their view were the great stone cisterns full of cold, clear, drinking water. And in the still night air, the sound of water running into the tanks could be distinctly heard maddening in its nearness. Yet not a man murmured when orders were given for the battalions to fall in two deep facing the cisterns.*

*There were stern priorities for getting drinks; the wounded, those on guard duty, then company by company. It took four hours before the last man had his drink of water. And in all that time, they had been standing 20 feet from a low stone wall on the other side of which were thousands of gallons of water.*

*If such were our thirst for God and for righteousness, for His will in our life, an all consuming, all embracing, preoccupying desire...*

The people Jesus was talking to – understood hunger  
They experienced it

It is that kind of hunger and thirst we are to have  
The idea in the Greek is to have deep hunger  
    To suffer hunger  
    This is real hunger...  
    This is genuine thirst...

This is also a continuous action  
    We keep hungering  
    We keep thirsting

**Psalms 63:1**

**Luke 1:53**

*53 "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed.*

## For righteousness

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We're supposed to be hungry and thirsty  
What are we supposed to be hungry and thirsty for?  
    Some would say happiness  
    That's what this is all about – happiness  
    Right? Seek for happiness..

*That's kind of like the man who goes to the doctor...  
The man is in terrible pain  
So the doctor gives him pain medicine  
But he never looks for the cause of the pain  
The medicine may take care of the pain*

*If nothing is done to find what is causing the pain  
Things will only get worse...*

We look for happiness

Many things look like they will make us happy  
More often than not, they cause us to just seek for  
more, and more – a never ending, never satisfying  
search

Happiness should actually be the by product

It is what comes after...

We are to seek righteousness

Hunger and thirst for righteousness

We are to seek after righteousness or justification

Being made right with God

Real happiness only comes when we are  
made right w/ God

Being right w/ God is all that really matters

Our relationship w/ Him is most important

2 parts to this – salvation and sanctification

In salvation we are made right with God

In sanctification we walk in a right relationship,  
right w/ God

We see our sin, our rebellion, our separation from God

We are broken and mourn over this

We humbly seek after God, to be restored to Him  
We want forgiveness so we hunger and thirst after  
righteousness – hunger and thirst to be made right with  
God – we desire to have sin removed, it's power, it's  
penalty, it's presence

Righteousness and salvation are closely related

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst  
after salvation

Hunger to have Jesus' blood cleanse us

We need to abandon all hope of our own righteousness  
Only Jesus' righteousness can save us

This is not conformity to an external code, an external  
set of rules

Rather it is coming to the end of ourselves

Realizing our worthlessness

Hungering and thirsting after what only  
God can give us

Once we are saved this hunger and thirst should not  
stop – it should continue it should grow

Called sanctification – our growing desire for  
God's righteousness in our lives

Daily becoming more like Him – we  
never really get there, in this life

The structure of the Greek is most interesting here

There is usually a word that qualifies their  
hunger – otherwise they would be saying they  
want all food

Usual Greek expression is I am hungry  
for... some kind of food

That word is missing here

What this is saying is they are hunger for all  
righteousness

They are thirsty for all righteousness

They don't just want some

They want it all

## Satisfaction

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What is the result of this continual hungering and  
thirsting?

After God's righteousness

Hungering and thirsting continually after all of God's  
righteousness...

The result is satisfaction, filling

We will be satisfied, we will be filled

We are satisfied and we still want more

*Leslie makes a great pecan pie*

*Eat one piece and you want more*

*One piece is enough, usually full at that point*

*And yet, it is so good I always want more*

God's righteousness is even better than pecan pie...  
It is better than potluck lunches...

God's righteousness fills us up, it satisfies us

The word here in Greek means to be filled

To be really filled

Full, real, true lasting satisfaction

This is what God gives those who seek Him

Think of having your thirst quenched after being  
really thirsty – those men in the desert...

Listen to these verses carefully

**Psalms 107:9**

*For He has satisfied the thirsty soul,  
And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.*

**Psalms 34:10**

*But they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any  
good thing.*

**Psalms 23:1**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

**Jeremiah 31:14**

*And My people will be satisfied with My goodness,"  
declares the Lord.*

**John 4:13-14**

*"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again;  
14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him  
shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him*

*will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."*

**John 6:51**

*51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."*

**Conclusion:**

Several questions to consider today...

Are you satisfied w/ yourself, your life, or dissatisfied?

Are you deeply dissatisfied?

O wretched man that I am...

If not, then you are self-righteous

You think there is s. in you that will satisfy...

Is there anything external that satisfies you?

Do things influence how you feel?

How is your appetite for God's word?

If we are not hungering and thirsting after righteousness we are not functioning as children of the kingdom

**Benediction: Matthew 6:33**

*33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

Sermon outline

06-01-14

Matthew 5:6

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