

TITLE : ARE YOU SATISFIED

TEXT: Matthew 5: 6

We are continuing our study of the Beatitudes. And we are in Matthew chapter 5 on the beatitude: BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THURST After RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED.

Before we begin let us look to the Lord in Prayer and ask his blessing upon our thoughts today.

Let Us Pray

Father, we recognize that your Holy Spirit must speak to us and show us clearly the things of your Word. And we pray that you would make us aware of our needs. That we might be open. And that the prayer of every Christian, right now, might be: "Oh, God, speak to my heart."

Help us ^{Lord} never to come to the place where we think we have arrived. Oh, God, we pray that you would give us a receptive mind to the Spirit of God. ~~Right now, we ask you to teach us.~~

We pray for those in our midst who do not possess assurance of Jesus Christ. Help them to know the real righteousness that is found only in Him.....And we ask this in Jesus Name.....AMEN

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In our study we have come to the fourth beatitude which is one of the greatest in terms of centering in on Spiritual problems that exist in our lives.

Remember, there is a basic position of the bleliever called "blessed". And there are certain promises revealed to the believer if he fulfills the practice. For example: One who is blessed and in that state and condition is "poor in Spirit", "he mourns" , he also is meek. And NOW, NUMBER FOUR HE HUNGERS AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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We hunger and thirst after many things in our lives. And it seems that Ameraian Christianity may best be summarized by the things that God does for us rather than God, himself.

As we ^{search}~~reach~~ deep into the things we ask from God, whether, it be something we would describe as spiritual or material, it basicly comes down to the fact that ^{and} our desires are centered in what God is doing for us, and not God himself. ^{however}.....It is the search and the hunger and the thirst, for God, himself, which characterizes the blessed person.

And we see so many people, today, seeking experiences from God, not realizing that they are not seeking God, himself.

And it seems as you view American Christianity the one thing we see is an intense desire for more.....More of something.....Many of us don't know what....You see, we have had so much that it is very difficult to know what it is that we want.....And so our desires have been built to the point of intense longings for something to happen in our lives. And thus we keep desiring more. But, we are really shooting for the wrong things. Because we basicly are shooting for things, events, experiences, and missing Jesus. Forgetting him in all of our pursuits.

And thus, many even go to the point of demanding from God almighty, who made us and knows everything about us, we demand that he produces for us, and show us that he is real.

And it is the highth of a lack of confidence ⁱⁿ the sovereignty of God. You have this problem and I have it. And we need to keep our priorities correct. It seem that we want more for God to work for us and perform for us then we do want God, himself....And there never was a better message for us than this beatitude. Blessed, the ones who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

So, let's look at this beatitude and see what Jesus is teaching us. To translate ^{literally} ~~correctly~~, it would read: "Blessed, the ones hungering and thirsting." ^{Now}.... This is not two separate thoughts. It is just one ^{thought} Hunger and thirst put together, is expressing the intense appetite of the individual. Not two different groups.

"After THE righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

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(1B) ^{So} Now, the first thing I want you to notice is that the realization of need must be upon the heart of every christian if he is to experience this satisfication.

Most Christians want to be deeply satisfied in their lives, but we don't know where to go. Because we haven't realized the need.

Blesed are those who hunger and thirst. The ones hungering and the one thirsting, ^{Proves Realizing Now need} they are the ones that are going to be satisfied.

Now, let me share with you just what this means from God's Word.

(1C) Turn in your Bibles to Luke chapter 15. ^{I want to share} Some of the characteristics of hungering and thirsting which will add to ^{your} understanding of what the Lord Jesus is saying in this fourth beatitude. The characteristics of hungering and thirsting. ^{or, what it means to realize an need.}

Number one is ~~the~~ initial sense of emptiness. And that is why there is hunger and thirst. Because there is emptiness. And this is beatifully expressed in the case of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11.

Jesus is giving a parable which has a two fold emphases. According to Vs 1, the tax-collectors and sinners gattered to hear him. But on the other hand, Vs 2, there were the religious people, the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling about how he received sinners. Then Jesus gave a series of three parables: He gave the parable of the lost sheep; the lost coin; and the lost son. And in each one there is a truth about the crowd to whom he was speaking.

(Read Luke 15:11-24)

There is so much for us in that story. But I want to center in on one thing: That young man knew what it meant to be empty and in want.

The Bible says when he came to himself, he realized the servants in his fathers house had more to eat than he had. And he was hungrey.

And I say to you that we must sense our hunger. We must sense our need before we will ever experience satisfaction. One of the basic truth that Jesus is driving home to us is that it is not wrong to hunger and thirst.....

As a matter of fact, it is right...It is normal. Just as it normal in the physical sense to hunger and thirst. So, it is spiritually.

The ones continuing to hunger, the ones continuing to thirst, ~~they are the ones that are blessed.~~ ~~and~~ They are the ones that shall be satisfied.

But, there must be this initial sense of emptiness.

When he spent alllllll, he went to some citizen to try and get help. But, the Bible says that no man would help him. He came down to the absolute bottom. And he was in need...

I think this is a tremendous lesson for us. Many of us as Christians do not come to that point. And thus we do not find the satisfaction that we desire. AN INITIAL SENSE OF EMPTINESS. A REALIZATION OF HUNGER AND THIRST-

(2 C) Now, the second ^{characteristic} thing I notice is ~~that~~ that hunger and thirst is a sign of spiritual heath.

One of the things that is wrong with Christianity today is the idea that we have arrived. We have the idea that we have come to a place where we are supposedly satisfied. ~~It is not true internally.~~ ^{So} But, externally we keep going on thinking that we have experienced all there is in Christ. And it is not a blessed condition to be filled all the time. ^{But} It is a blessed condition, according to Christ, to hunger and thirst.

Now, it is a sign of heath when you are hunger physically; and you are thirsty, physically. And it is also true ~~and~~ spiritually, according to ~~Christ~~ ^{Jesus} Christ. And it is not abnormal for one to have these appetites. It is normal. [And the absences of spiritual hunger and thirst, just as in the case of the physical appetites, indicates either sickness or death.....

If you don't long after ~~the~~ righteousness, if there is no appetite there for ~~the~~ righteousness, you may be spiritually dead. ^{maybe} You have never been ~~born~~ born by the sprit of God. And that is why you don't feel anything. ^{and} Why you don't want anything or feel sensitive to the Lord.

Or, it may be as a believer, you who know Christ, and know his righteousness, and ^{ye} you are not hungering and you are not thirsting, the obvious answer is that you are sick.....^{spiritual}

That ^{apathy} sickness that causes one not to desire the things of God is a sign of spritual sicknes..... ^{But} To hunger, Thirst is a sign of spritual health

(3C) The third ^{characteristic} thing that I notice ~~is~~ in the case of hungry and thirsting is that these desires are never permanently satisfied.

I use to believe ~~in my younger days~~ as a christian that there was a point in which a Christian would all of a sudden arrive and be satisfied. He would have some sort of experience which would guarantee unto him the spiritual satisfaction.

But That is not what the Bible Teaches

~~But I have come to realize that~~ Now I believe the Bible teaches us that we should be content with all things. That is talking about our lot: About our state : whether suffering or joy or ^{Blessing} ~~blessing~~ or trial, to always be content.

But, the Bible doesn't teach that we ~~will~~ ^{finally} ever come to the point where we have arrived and there is nothing further for us.

You know, one of the great things about eating is that you must eat again..... Isn't that neat. / ...And people who like to eat, like to eat because they get hunger. And once you eat and you like it and you were filled, [in a few hourse you want to eat again and be filled...And thus it goes on..day after day. YOU ARE NEVER PERMANENTLY SATISFIED. And the same is true of spiritual life.

There, is a beautiful illustration of this in the O.T. Remember when the Children of Israle were in the wilderness. The Lord feed them with manna. And this manna was good for only one day. And all the people would gather enough food for one day. And the Bible says they were filled and satisfied. But, they had to eat and be filled again the next day. There desires were never permanently satisfied.

(4C) The fourth ^{characteristic} thing I want you to notice is that the ~~temporary~~ ^{temporary} pain of those experiences only increased the joy when they are satisfied.

My wife and I decided we would go on a diet. We started last week. And I am telling you that those first few days were hard. I mean, when you are use to eating 5 or 6 times a day, boy it is a long time from lunch to supper.....

The funny thing is that when you start out on a diet ~~the~~ food is all you can think ~~the~~ about. You start out on a diet and your breakfast is very small and all ~~by~~ you are thinking about is how much food you have lost. And then lunch time rolls around and man, you are thinking about food. [And you know what I discovered, I don't know about you, but thinking about food just dosen't help.....It only increases the pain.

But, I want to tell you that when I take that first bit of food that was really something. I really liked it. I mean I like it better than I ususally like it. And I really like food.

Preceded by ^{seriously} Seriously, wouldn't it be wonderful if we really felt that way about God? What is wrong with us, Christians? Why don't we feel that way about God? Jesus, said, "blessed are those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

The Lord really spoke to me from Psalms 63. ^{my} Would you turn there, please. Psalms 63:1-7....

The one message that really captured my attention this week ~~an~~ I prepared for this message, is that David in the Psalms continually expresses the fact that he has a need.....WHAT NEEDS DO WE HAVE? Most of us walk around through our busy weeks and we do not need anything from God....And we wonder why we do not experience that deep satisfaction and that filling from God. Psalms 63 ~~is/one/those~~

(Read Psalms 63:1-7)

As you read this Psalm, do you find any identity with it? Do you find any relationship with the thoughts of this Psalm? Has your heart just gotten so cold and away from Christ that you don't feel that ^{need} ~~and you don't~~ see ~~the~~ point? Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be satisfied.

AND PLEASE NOTE: THE VALUE OF YOUR APPETITE DOES NOT LIE IN ITSELF, NOT AT ALL, BUT IN THE SATISFACTION...

David said: ^{my} ~~my~~ soul be satisfied when I remember thee on ~~my~~ bed."

~~Don't you need~~

When you seek ~~for~~ the lord, then, you will be satisfied....Nobody likes those appetites. They bring pain. But the joy is in the satisfaction. When the food comes ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ it.

(5C) The ~~fiveth~~ ^{chevath} thing I want you to know about these appetites is that satisfaction comes from outside yourself.

In the case of physical hunger and thirst, it must be the food and drink that either ^{you} get for ~~you~~ ^{you}self or ~~g~~ receive from someone or someplace.

And the satisfaction here come from outside ~~because it is in the past~~ ^{because it is in the past}. Blessed are you who hunger and thirst after righteousness for you shall be satisfied. Not that you shall satisfy yourself. But, you shall be satisfied. It is going to come from the outside. God is going to meet your needs.....WHEN?.....When I hunger and thirst after righteousness. I must realize my need.

(6C) And the ~~sixth~~ ^{Final Chevath} thing is that appetites are not satisfied until you do something about it.

And as I mention a moment, ago, just thinking about it willn't help You may think that you need this in your life. You may think that it would be good to spiritually hunger and thirst after God's righteousness; but thinking isn't doing something about it.

So we must realize our need, as to the meaning of hunger and thirst.

(2B) Now, the second thing I want you to think about is 'the' righteousness which meets the need. What kind of ~~of~~ righteousness is it?

According to the Bible, in the Greek text we find the definite article "THE" RIGHTEOUSNESS. Not just "righteousness". But "THE PARTICULAR RIGHTEOUSNESS." And this is the heart of the whole passage.

~~It is not just~~ ^{on Doing Good Deeds} talking about a general concept of righteousness. It is talking about THE RIGHTEOUSNESS, ^{which is J.C.}

And notice in your Bible that "The Righteousness" is the direct object of the hungering and thirsting. You see, it is not the idea of talking a part of THE RIGHTEOUSNESS and then going away and being satisfied. NO.... You ^{must} partake of the whole thing.

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You hunger and thirst after the whole ball of wax, wiped up in Jesus Christ, himself. It is not just hungering and thirsting after the right things in life; NO....it is hungering and thirsting after Jesus Christ, himself. And the Lord really opened by eyes.

And I ask myself, as I ask you here ^{Tongue} ~~this~~ ^{HOW MUCH DO WE} ~~morrowing~~ LONG FOR JESUS? HUNGERING AND THIRSTING FOR JESUS... ^{maybe that is why} ^{some of you never see God} ^{Wait you up}

I have a righteousness and so do you if you are a believer that is found in Jesus Christ the moment I accept him as my saviour. It is a standing that is perfect.

But, this is not what Jesus is talking about here, because it is in the continual tense. Continual hunger, continual thirst. If it were a once for all thing, then it would be over. I wouldn't need to hunger and thirst after it anymore....No, ^{Not beautiful} Jesus is talking about the continual appetite of the spirit which longs for Jesus, as THE RIGHTEOUSNESS.....

In I Corthians 1:30 Paul writes that Jesus ~~is~~ is THE RIGHTEOUSNESS of God. He is righteousness.

And the point of this beatitude is when we hunger and thirst ^{For} ~~after~~ Jesus, then we will be satisfied. Psalms 16:11 says, in thy presence there is fulness and joy. In the presance of God. To long after God, to seek ~~him~~, is to experience the satisfaction that we are looking for...

Dr. A. W. Toeser said that Christians are divided into two camps. Those who want ~~ed~~ God to do something for them; and those who wanted only God.

Hungering and thirsting after God, not what he gives me...but Him.

(3B) Then, finally, notice the great promise.....the wonderful result ~~that~~ that I will experience is being satisfied.....

You you know there are two words for satisfied. Over and over again the N.T. talks about being satisfied or filled.....Satisfied with God.... Filled with the spirit...and so forth....THIS IS NOT ~~that~~ WORD. It is the word for "feed" or "fatten animals." And we might expect that, since we are talking about hungering and thirsting.

with R 23

Feed...hunger... ~~Now~~ ^{Now} 4 put the two together....."The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not... ~~want~~?....."WENT".....You talk about satisfaction. THE LORD..IS..MY..SHEPHERD..I..SHALL.. NOT..WANT.

And the Lord showed me that what we miss out on most of the time is JESUS. We see everything he does or wants to do, but we miss out on HIM. ~~The Lord~~ ^{Jesus} is ~~that~~ ^{The} Righteousness. And those who long, who hunger and thirst after Him, they ~~are~~ the ones who walk away FED.....It doesn't mean they willn't hunger again. And it ~~doesn't~~ mean it wasn't complete, the feeding they had. But, they hunger for more. And they are fed again and filled. They hunger for more. They are fed, again, and filled. etc.

Blessed are they who are hungering and thirsting, for they shall be Filled. *Sorry, more? More about Jesus would I know!*
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Turn to Psalm 23, please, Psalm 23. In Psalm 23 you have expressed how the shepherd cares for the sheep. And in there is the principle of feeding one who is hunger. And I want to show it to you.

(read Psalms 23)

Notice, Vs 5..."Thou dost prepare a what?"....."A TABLE"....A table for what?..?.....A table is to feed you...The whole point is, he just presented a dinner and where was this dinner?...."in the presence of your enemies." While all your enemies are saying, "Christ doesn't met your needs....." The Lord is my shepherd and he prepares a table in the presence of my enemies.

God ~~is~~ the shepherd that feeds. All the way through the Bible I learn that the shepherd feeds. Isa 40:11 says he will feed like a shepherd. ~~And these are only two of the many passages which teach that God is the shepherd who feeds.....~~Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after THE RIGHTEOUSNESS for they shall be fed....Satisfied.....I WANT TO BE FED...And you want to be fed. ~~but~~ ^{but} I want to be fed with the right thing....And it is Jesus... Nothing more...nothing less....

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Let Us

I want you to turn to 2 Corinthians chapter 3 to emphasize this on your mind. 2 Corinthians 3...Perhaps one of the reasons why when we study the Word there are those who are fed and there are those who are not, centers in this whole relationship to Christ as to whether we are hungering and thirsting after Him.....Some of us will read the Bible and study it, in order to have a happier day. Some of us will study the Bible in order that we might not have so many problems. Or in order to avoid certain things that might happen to us. And, again, we are emphasizing the things we receive from God and not God, himself...DO YOU UNDERSTAND?..THIS IS SO IMPORTANT...

You know, a lot of times we can read the scripture and miss Jesus? Someone has said he is written on every page of the Bible. We ^{read} ~~study~~ in order to avoid things, ^{or} in order to have things, or to be more successful, or to be more fruitful, and you just keep going on your long list of things.

Now, what is the problem?..We are missing Jesus. The shepherd who feeds the sheep. You have missed him, *Thus you are not satisfied or filled*

2 Corinthians 3:18...."But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord."...Now, that glory is His..The Lord, himself..

I have taught a class on the book of Revelation. And in this class I emphasize that the term Revelation means "unveiling" of Jesus Christ." That is the title of the book. Not the revelation of John. The title is the Revelation of Jesus. And in chapter 1, John was chosen by God to see what it would be like to have Jesus unveiled. And he tried to write to us about that experience. The marvelous vision of Christ in all of his glory. It wasn't the same thing that we see in the Gospels. Here he is in power and great glory and the vision was absolutely different.

And 2 Cor 3:18n says, "the glory of the Lord." You see, a lot of us when we look into the mirror are not seeing the glory of the Lord.... THE RIGHTEOUSNESS...Instead we see what God wants to do for us, which is many things, but we miss the Lord.

Now, watch what happens when you are seeing the glory of the Lord.. "we are ^{being} ~~being~~ transformed into the same image from glory"...that glory which

is himself...to glory...the glory that will be revealed in me...which is His...not mine....Not something that is a part of Jesus, but His life in me. And how is this all accomplished?....."Vs 18," just as from the Lord, the spir

Now, look at chapter 4:6...."For God, who said, light shall shine out of darkness is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in whose face?.....JESUS CHRIST.....

It centers right in him...his own person.....

Vs 7, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels."...What is the treasure that we have?.....The treasure is Jesus....The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ..That is the treasure that is in earthen vessels....

"That the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from us."

You see, It is not our power. It is not our might. It is Jesus shining in us.

His glory.

Let's put it together

To summarize:

Just which So often *we* hungering and thirsting and desiring, *after* ~~that~~ which *God* gives, rather than *God* himself, the result is that very little of Jesus is ~~seen~~ *in us* Jesus isn't on our minds. It is *what He* has done that is on our minds. And praise God for what he has done. *But*, beloved, there is a level of maturity *where* we must get off of what he does and get onto Him. And realize that Jesus is the glory of God....Paul writes "that in ancient times God revealed his glory through the Prophets, but now through his son Jesus Christ!.....The glory of God is the Lamb, says Revelation. It is Jesus....."

Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after THE RIGHTEOUSNESS for they are the one who shall be fed.

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Let us close in prayer