

Hunger and Thirst

March 12, 2017

I. Introduction

- 1. The blessed know joy even when they don't feel happy.*
- 2. The blessed can live right side up when the world is upside down.*

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

II. Two Questions To Consider

1. What is Righteousness?

A. Righteousness is a word that can be easily misunderstood.

1. Righteousness refers to a state of things being right before God.

Proverbs 13:25 The righteous eat to their hearts' content, but the stomach of the wicked goes hungry.

2. The word righteousness can be used in a spiritual, moral, and social sense.

B. Righteousness is not just following the rules.

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:25-28 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

1. Real righteousness is from the inside out, not the outside in.
2. If the inside is right, the outside will be transformed.

Matthew 5:21-22 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:27-28 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:31-32 “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 5:33-34 “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all:

C. Righteousness is not a matter of the law, but a matter of the heart.

1. Selfishness is the enemy of righteousness.
2. We must be aware of the danger of convincing ourselves that the outside is good when the inside is actually rotten.

2. How do we hunger and thirst for righteousness?

A. Hunger and thirst are a deep desire.

Psalms 107:8-9 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

B. We are to long for things to be made right with God.

1. We are to make righteousness our priority.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2. We are to eagerly desire righteousness.

Psalms 42:2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

3. We are to consistently desire righteousness.

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

4. We are to actively desire righteousness.

Hebrews 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

C. Satisfaction is found in God's Word.

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Psalms 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

1. Satisfaction is found in right living.

Isaiah 61:3 They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

- If we are not growing, we may need to reevaluate our nourishment.

2. Satisfaction is found in Jesus Christ.

John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Isaiah 55:1-2 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

- The search for satisfaction will only be fulfilled in God.