

HOW IS YOUR APPETITE?

November 21, 2021 | PASTOR FINNEY SAMUEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Matthew 5:6, 2 Tim 2:22

KEY VERSE

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Matthew 5:6 NIV

REVIEW

In today's study of the Beatitudes, Pastor focuses on Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Israel's impoverished state under strict Roman rule and taxation left many poor and destitute. Jesus uses this current condition of Israel to emphasize His meaning of hunger and thirst. As the people hunger and thirst for food daily, Jesus states that we should also hunger and thirst for righteousness daily.

The hunger and thirst Jesus references is not of food and drink but of a deep desire for God and godly things. Psalm 63:1 talks about the psalmist's passion in the depths of his heart with which he desperately seeks and thirsts for God. He says "my whole being longs for you". In Jacob's wrestling with the angel of God, Jacob refused to let the angel go until He was blessed. This is the drive Jesus requires of us in our hunger and thirst for him. One Sunday service should just not be enough! We should want to know him more and more daily. When we crave for God by lingering in His presence and devouring the milk and meat of the Holy Word of God we are satisfied with a full and overflowing life.

Pastor discusses two measures of righteousness: one that longs to do the will of God through a daily worthy lifestyle and the imputed righteousness that gives us justification through Jesus. In the pursuit of righteousness the promise of satisfaction is achieved. Sanctification drives us to live a sanctified life. A sanctified life leads us to righteous works. As we have been given life and fullness through Jesus, we should bring life and fullness to those around us.

Pastor encourages us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. To bring forth the power of the gospel through our actions of love and servitude to those around us. (Micah 6:8, Isaiah 1:17)

REFLECT

1. Why do you think Jesus uses the imagery of hungering and thirsting in this beatitude?

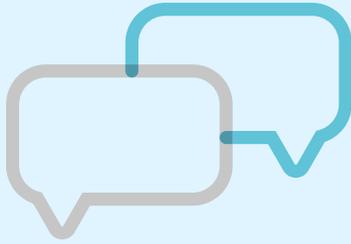
2. In his message, Pastor says appetite can easily be lost when we fill ourselves with junk. Name some things that can make us lose our appetite for God? What does it mean to substitute religion or ritual with relationship?

3. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? Name 3 activities on how we can have a more intentional relationship with God? How does the imagery of hungering & thirsting inform the passion & priority with which you should pursue these activities?

4. Name and describe the two forms of righteousness taught in today's message? Explain sanctification and living a sanctified life/ justification and the pursuit of justice.

5. What brings the satisfaction that is promised to those who hunger & thirst for righteousness? What does this satisfaction look like? What things/people/situations provide for you the feeling of being satisfied? What causes the satisfaction in each of these?

NOTES



Instructions: When we read the Scriptures, when we sit under our leaders for the proclamation and teaching of the Scriptures we ought to respond and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us to respond.

In response to what we have discussed and learned this week:

- a) Take ten minutes to respond to God directly.
- b) Choose one or two of the categories below and journal a personal prayer in your Bible, notebook or a digital device.

HOW CAN YOU RESPOND TO THIS TEXT IN PRAYER?



CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

How is your drive and appetite for God? Are you thirsty for him? Tell Him of the substitutes that steal your appetite for God. Is anything taking your time away from dwelling with God? Is there something you need to surrender to God?



PETITION

Is there something you need from Him in order to live in accordance with His Word? Ask Him for divine contentment. Ask Him for strength to flee from evil and pursue righteousness.
Ask Him for the greater gifts (1 Cor 12:31)



THANKSGIVING

Celebrate God's goodness and love shown on the cross for us. Praise Him for we are justified and sanctified because of Jesus' righteousness. Praise Him for such a beautiful exchange.



PRAISE

Thank God for his kingdom perks of Divine contentment, provision, and protection over your life. **2 Peter 3:12** says His eyes are upon the righteous and His ears attentive to your prayers.